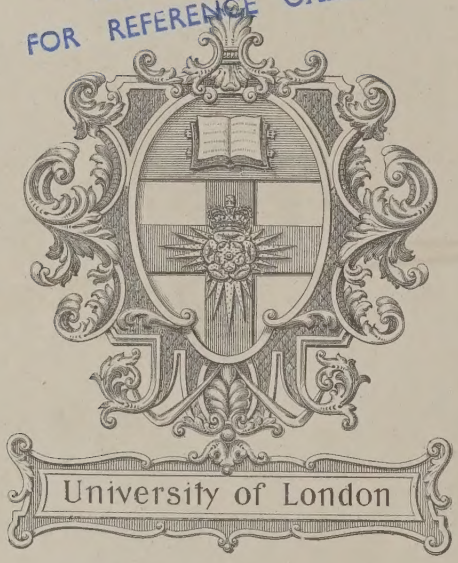
PARL. PAPERS
FOR REFERENCE ONLY.



605040

REPORTS

FROM

COMMITTEES:

FIFTEEN VOLUMES.

—(2.—PART II.)—

AGRICULTURE.

Session

4 *February* —— 20 *August* 1836.

VOL. VIII.—PART II.

1836.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

1836.

FIFTEEN VOLUMES:—CONTENTS OF THE

SECOND VOLUME, PART II.

N.B.—*THE* Figures *at the* beginning of the line, *correspond with the* N° *at the foot of each* Report; *and the* Figures *at the* end of the line, *refer to the* MS. Paging *of the Volumes arranged for The House of Commons.*

AGRICULTURE:

465. THIRD REPORT from the Select Committee appointed to inquire into the State of AGRICULTURE; with MINUTES of EVIDENCE, APPENDIX and INDEX - - - - - - - - p. 1

THIRD REPORT - - - - - - - - - - p. 1
MINUTES OF EVIDENCE - - - - - - - p. 5
APPENDIX - - - - - - - - - - p. 503
INDEX - - - - - - - - - - - p. 629

THIRD

REPORT

FROM THE

SELECT COMMITTEE

APPOINTED TO INQUIRE INTO THE

STATE OF AGRICULTURE;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

APPENDIX AND INDEX.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
21 *July* 1836.

Lunæ, 8° die Februarii, 1836.

Ordered, THAT a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the State of Agriculture, and into the Causes and Extent of the Distress which still presses upon some important branches thereof, and to Report their Observations and Opinion thereupon to The House:—And a Committee was appointed of—

Lord John Russell.	Sir William Molesworth.
Sir Robert Peel.	Lord Viscount Howick.
Sir James Graham.	Mr. George Evans.
Mr. Shaw Lefevre.	Mr. Cooper (Sligo).
The Marquis of Chandos.	Mr. William Gordon.
Mr. Cayley.	Mr. Sidney Herbert.
Mr. Gilbert Heathcote.	Mr. Bingham Baring.
Mr. Ayshford Sanford.	Mr. Poulett Thomson.
Mr. Evelyn Denison.	Mr. William Ord.
Sir Edward Knatchbull.	Mr. Clay.
Lord Stanley.	Mr. Handley.
Mr. William Miles.	Mr. Morrison.
The Earl of Lincoln.	Mr. James Loch.
Mr. Anderson Pelham.	Mr. Dunlop (Ayr).
Sir Robert Price.	Mr. John Young.
Mr. Robert Clive.	The O'Conor Don.
Lord Francis Egerton.	Mr. Matthias Attwood.

Ordered, THAT the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers and Records.

Ordered, THAT Five be the Quorum of the Committee.

Martis, 9° die Februarii, 1836.

Ordered, THAT Sir Charles Burrell and Mr. Wodehouse be added to the Committee.

Jovis, 25° die Februarii, 1836.

Ordered, THAT the Committee have power to report the Minutes of the Evidence taken before them from time to time to the House.

THIRD REPORT - - - - - - - - - - - p. iii
MINUTES OF EVIDENCE - - - - - - - - - p. 1
APPENDIX - - - - - - - - - - - - p. 499
INDEX - - - - - - - - - - - - p. [1

3

THIRD REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the State of AGRICULTURE, and into the Causes and Extent of the Distress which still presses upon some important Branches thereof, and who were empowered to report the MINUTES of the EVIDENCE taken before them from time to time to The House :—

HAVE made a further progress in the Matters to them referred; and examined several other Witnesses, the Minutes of whose Evidence they have agreed to report to The HOUSE.

July 1836.

LIST OF WITNESSES.

Veneris, 15° die Aprilis, 1836.

Mr. *Thomas Neve* - - - p. 1
Mr. *John Cramp* - - - p. 6
Mr. *Joseph Cook Arnall* - - p. 15

Martis, 19° die Aprilis, 1836.

Mr. *Robert Hope* - - - p. 18
Mr. *Andrew Howden* - - p. 32

Mercurii, 20° die Aprilis, 1836.

Mr. *John Brodie* - - - p. 49
Mr. *David Walker* - - p. 61

Veneris, 22° die Aprilis, 1836.

Mr. *John Ellis* - - - - p. 70
Mr. *Samuel Goodman* - - - p. 84
Lawrence Oliphant, Esq., M. P. - p. 89

Martis, 26° die Aprilis, 1836.

Mr. *John Hancock* - - - p. 100
Mr. *Robert Hatch Stares* - - p. 111

Mercurii, 27° die Aprilis, 1836.

Mr. *William Bell* - - - p. 123
Mr. *William Brown* - - - p. 137

Veneris, 29° die Aprilis, 1836.

Mr. *William Bell* - - - p. 151
Christopher Comyns Parker, Esq. p. 152
Mr. *James Fison* - - - p. 166

Martis, 3° die Maii, 1836.

Mr. *William Crowther* - - p. 175
Mr. *Richard Stevenson* - - p. 188
Mr. *Thomas Boniface* - - p. 191

Mercurii, 4° die Maii, 1836.

Mr. *William Crowther* - - p. 202
Mr. *James Church* - - - p. 208
Mr. *George Robertson* - - p. 216
Mr. *Thomas Boniface* - - p. 236

Veneris, 6° die Maii, 1836.

Rev. *Charles Clarke* - - p. 238
Mr. *William Menzies* - - p. 243
Mr. *William Cox* - - - p. 249

Martis, 10° die Maii, 1836.

Edward Silvester Shawe, Esq. - p. 258
Mr. *Archibald M'Dougal* - - p. 271

Mercurii, 11° die Maii, 1836.

Mr. *Richard Brassington* - - p. 276
Mr. *Joseph Freeland* - - - p. 286
James Smith, Esq. - - - p. 293

Veneris, 13° die Maii, 1836.

Mr. *George Frean* - - - p. 306
Mr. *William Blacker* - - p. 317

Martis, 31° die Maii, 1836.

Richard Spooner, Esq. - - p. 338

Veneris, 3° die Junii, 1836.

Mr. *Henry Burgess* - - - p. 360
Mr. *William Debonnaire Haggard* p. 380

Mercurii, 8° die Junii, 1836.

James Loch, Esq. - - - p. 387

Veneris, 10° die Junii, 1836.

George Frederick Muntz, Esq. - p. 389

Martis, 14° die Junii, 1836.

The Earl of *Radnor* - - - p. 411
The Rt. Hon. Lord *Ashburton* - p. 433

Mercurii, 15° die Junii, 1836.

Mr. *Rogers Ruding* - - - p. 442
Mr. *John Hayes* - - - p. 456

Veneris, 17° die Junii, 1836.

The Rt. Hon. Lord *Ashburton* - p. 468

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Veneris, 15° *die Aprilis*, 1836.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Shaw Lefevre.	Mr. Robert Clive.
Marquis of Chandos.	Mr. William Gordon.
Mr. Evans.	Lord Viscount Howick.
Sir Edward Knatchbull.	Mr. Anderson Pelham.
Mr. Ayshford Sanford.	Mr. Wodehouse.

MR. SHAW LEFEVRE, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *Thomas Neve*, called in; and Examined.

9333. *Chairman.*] WHERE do you reside?—At Benenden, in Kent.

9334. What is your occupation?—A grazier, farmer and land agent.

9335. To whom are you land agent?—To several different gentlemen.

9336. Are you acquainted with a considerable district of country in the county of Kent?—A considerable district, principally in the Wealds of Kent and Sussex.

9337. Does that lie between Tenterden and Tonbridge Wells?—It does.

9338. What is the nature of the soil?—The greater part of it is stiff clay land; that is the prevailing character of the soil.

9339. Comparing the state of the farmers in that district of country at the present time, with their state in 1833, do you consider it better or worse?—I think where they are dependent principally on corn, they are in a worse situation; but where they have a considerable quantity of hops, I think the hop farmers are in rather a better situation.

9340. Hops form a considerable portion of the cultivation of that district?—They do.

9341. Has there been much improvement going on lately, by draining or otherwise, in the land in that neighbourhood?—There has been a considerable improvement.

9342. What has been the effect of that improvement?—A considerable increase of crops, certainly.

9343. Is it going on at the present moment?—I think it is, but not to so great a degree as it was after the wet seasons; from having had such dry seasons, the farmers are not quite so keen in underdraining as they were.

9344. Is that done at the expense of the farmer or of the landlord?—Principally at the expense of the farmer.

9345. Is it an expensive sort of draining?—The expense has very much lessened indeed within the last few years, by the discovery of the draining plough, which is used a good deal in our part of the country upon the clay soils.

9346. In consequence of this draining, has there been an increased quantity of wheat grown?—I think there has.

9347. Should you say that the last three harvests have been favourable to that part of the country?—Very much so, in consequence of dry seasons.

9348. What should you say was the average amount of the wheat crop per

Mr. *Thomas Neve.*

15 April 1836.

acre, during the last two or three years?—I should say from three quarters to three and a half.

9349. What is the usual average?—Not more, if so much as two quarters and a half.

9350. And you attribute that increase entirely to the favourable seasons of the last three years, and not to improvements of the soil?—In a great measure to the fine seasons we have had.

9351. Do you think that those improvements in draining will have the effect of securing so high an average as three quarters and a half to an acre, upon an average of years?—Not in unfavourable seasons, I think.

9352. You stated, that the corn growing farmers, you thought, were in a worse condition; what other crops do they grow besides wheat?—Principally wheat and oats, very little barley is grown in that district.

9353. Do you think that the price of oats has been quite satisfactory?—No, it has not.

9354. What should you say ought to be the average price of oats, to enable the farmer to grow them with a profit?—I do not think they can be grown with a profit under about three or four and twenty shillings a quarter.

9355. And the average has been about 1*l.*?—Hardly so much.

9356. What quantity of oats do you grow upon an acre?—From four to five quarters.

9357. Have the expenses of cultivation diminished in any way besides, owing to the draining?—They are diminished by draining considerably, but in no other way that I know of.

9358. Is the amount of the poor rates the same now as it was three years ago?—No, they are lessened considerably.

9359. Has the Poor Law Amendment Bill been carried into effect in your neighbourhood?—It has, a few months only.

9360. Not a sufficient period to enable you to judge of the effect of it?—I have no doubt it will tend very much to lessen the rates.

9361. Have the labourers' wages diminished?—No, they have not.

9362. Do you consider that the labourer is well off at present with the wages he receives?—I never knew him so well paid since I have been a farmer, compared with the prices of provisions.

9363. Can you suggest any measure of relief which it is in the power of the Legislature to afford the farmer under the present circumstances?—I do not know any relief which can be afforded to the farmer except the malt duty could be taken off.

9364. Is there much barley grown in that district of Kent?—Not a great deal.

9365. In what way would the repeal of the malt duty benefit the farmers in that district of Kent?—I think it would very much increase the consumption of hops.

9366. That would improve the condition of the hop growing farmer, but how would it affect the corn growing farmer?—By far the largest portion of the occupiers in the Wealds of Kent and Sussex are hop farmers as well as corn farmers.

9367. Then you think the repeal of the malt duty would increase the demand for hops, and that would improve the condition of the farmer?—I think it would; and it would enable the farmer to give his labourers beer, which very few do at present.

9368. Did you ever hear a plan proposed, that the farmer should have the privilege of malting his own barley, free of duty?—I have heard it suggested.

9369. Do you think that would be advantageous to the farmer?—I think it would.

9370. Can you state to the Committee the amount of advantage which it would be to a farmer who occupies 400 acres?—I have not turned my attention to that.

9371. Do you think much barley is grown in the district of which you speak which could be malted advantageously?—There would be more barley grown under those circumstances in our district.

9372. You consider that the soil, now it has been drained, is capable of growing barley?—It is.

9373. Is much clover grown there?—A considerable quantity.

9374. Do you grow any clover for seed?—Only for my own use.

9375. Do the farmers generally grow clover for seed in that country?—A great many do.

9376. Then it would be no advantage to those farmers to have a reduction of the duty on clover seed?—I think it would be rather a disadvantage.

9377. Does the cultivation of clover seed employ a great number of labourers?—It does in the winter months.

9378. From what country do they generally buy their seed when they sow their clover?—It is principally grown in the neighbourhood.

9379. Is it an advantageous plan to buy seed grown in the neighbourhood, and to crop the soil in the neighbourhood with it?—It is generally preferred to seed that is purchased from the seedsman.

9380. How often can you grow clover?—It is generally sown too often, I should say, with us; it is sown about once in four or five years, and that is too often.

9381. It should be sown perhaps once in eight years?—Once in eight years would be much better.

9382. Are you not of opinion that if the seed could be changed often you might grow it more frequently?—I should be doubtful of that.

9383. Marquis of *Chandos*.] You stated that the repeal of the malt tax would be beneficial to the farmer; now, supposing a repeal of the whole malt duty could not be effected, would not a reduction of the duty be of use to you?—I think it would.

9384. How much reduction would be of service to the farmer; would 5*s*. a quarter be of use?—I think that would be of some use, but not a great deal; I do not think the labourers generally would get more beer than they do now.

9385. But still it would be a benefit, to a certain extent?—Of course it would.

9386. Do the remainder of the assessed taxes bear at all upon the farmer?—I should say not, to any extent.

9387. What do you pay as a farmer per year for assessed taxes?—I forget, exactly, what I do pay; but I pay considerably more than most farmers do, from being obliged to keep several horses, to enable me to do my business as a land agent.

9388. Are you in the habit of going over different counties much?—No, I am not, to any extent; I have not gone very much out of Kent and Sussex; I have occasionally.

9389. You stated that your farm is stiff land?—The greater part of it is.

9390. Do you consider the stiff lands are worse off than the other soils?—I do not think they have been during the last two or three fine seasons.

9391. Are the Committee to understand that the two or three last fine seasons have placed the heavy land in the same situation as the light soils?—The crops have been much better.

9392. Are you of opinion that a reduction of the duty upon malt would assist the farmer at the present moment?—I have no doubt of it.

9393. Sir *Edward Knatchbull*.] Is there any other duty except the malt duty that presses heavily upon the farmer, by the repeal of which you could be relieved?—I am not aware of any other.

9394. As regards taxation, the repeal of the malt duty is the only tax, the repeal of which would benefit the farmer?—I think it is.

9395. Are you aware of the amount that the malt duty produces to the revenue?—I understand it is about 5,000,000*l*.

9396. If the repeal of the malt duty was to take place, do not you imagine that some substitute for that 5,000,000*l*. must be provided?—I suppose there must.

9397. Can you suggest any substitute to make up the deficiency?—I cannot.

9398. Would it be satisfactory or convenient to substitute a property tax instead?—I certainly should not prefer it myself.

9399. You would rather that the malt duty was continued than have a property tax?—I certainly should.

9400. As regards the proportion of the malt duty which you think might be repealed, can you state what amount of repeal would benefit the farmer, so as to make it an object worthy of legislation?—I should say that at least half should be taken off, if any of it.

Mr. *Thomas Neve.*

15 April 1836.

9401. Do you think that a reduction of 5*s.* would enable the farmer to brew beer for his labourers?—I do not think it would.

9402. Do you think a reduction of 10*s.* would?—I think 10*s.* would.

9403. Can you state what would be the amount of benefit upon your own farm, if a reduction of 10*s.* was to take place in the duty upon malt?—I should think not more than 10*l.* a-year.

9404. Upon a farm of how many acres?—I am occupying an arable farm of about 200 acres.

9405. Mr. *Clive.*] Should you brew for your labourers, supposing that reduction were made?—I should.

9406. Sir *Edward Knatchbull.*] Do you think that generally would be the case?—I think it would, to a considerable extent.

9407. Should you be induced to brew for your labourers, in reference to the increased consumption of hops that would take place, if that should happen; would not that be the cause that would lead you to brew for your labourers?—Not entirely.

9408. Do you think that those parts of the country that were not interested in the growth of hops would brew for their labourers, if the malt duty were reduced 10*s.*?—I am doubtful whether they would.

9409. Mr. *Evans.*] What rent do you pay for your farm, which you say would be benefited to the extent of about 10*l.* a-year?—About 12*s.* an acre upon the the 200 acres; I pay 125*l.* a-year.

9410. Sir *Edward Knatchbull.*] As a land agent, have you found that the rents have been well paid of late?—They have been during the last two or three years.

9411. Previous to that time was that the case?—Very far from it.

9412. Do you attribute the better payment of rent to the great amount of crops, owing to good seasons?—Yes.

9413. Have rents been reduced in the last ten or fifteen years?—Very much indeed.

9414. Has it been the object of the landlords to meet the times, as far as they can, with reference to the amount of rent?—It has.

9415. What are cottages usually let for?—They are letting from 1*s.* a week to 2*s.*

9416. Have they any gardens attached to them?—By far the greater part have.

9417. Those which have gardens, have they higher rents to pay?—In some instances they have.

9418. Has the rent of cottages been reduced as well as the rent of land?—I think not.

9419. But you consider the poor to be in a better situation, in consequence of the low price of provisions?—The low price of provisions and the rate of wages they are receiving.

9420. Mr. *Clive.*] Would your wages be reduced, supposing that 10*s.* of the duty was taken off from malt, so as to enable you to brew for the labourers?—I do not think they would.

9421. You think the wages would remain pretty much the same?—I think they would.

9422. *Chairman.*] Is the land in the district of Kent, with which you are best acquainted, subject to tithe?—Yes, it is.

9423. Is tithe generally taken by composition or in kind?—Generally by composition, but in some cases it is taken in kind.

9424. On arable land, what is the composition per acre on the average?—It varies almost in every parish.

9425. Upon your own farm?—Upon my own farm it is very low; I pay 6*s.* an acre for wheat, and 4*s.* for lent corn.

9426. What for pasture?—We have a modus that covers the pasture land.

9427. Do you consider that it would be an advantage to have the tithes commuted and a permanent rent-charge?—I think it would.

9428. Is the tithe owner in your parish a clergyman or a layman?—A layman.

9429. Have you seen the bill which is now before the House of Commons for the commutation of tithes?—I saw a copy of the bill, when it was first introduced by Lord John Russell; I have not seen the alterations.

9430. Do you think the principle of a commutation of tithe upon the value of the produce for the last seven years a good principle?—I do not think it is.

9431. What is your objection to it?—For the average of the last seven years we have grown greater crops than we can fairly calculate upon doing for the next seven years.

9432. Even taking the improvements connected with draining into consideration?—We can hardly calculate upon having four such fine seasons as we have had.

9433. What principle would you suggest as a fair principle for the commutation?—I hardly know what I could suggest.

9434. Do you think it would be possible to regulate the amount of rent-charge according to the actual annual value of the land, independent of the produce?—I think that would be a satisfactory plan to the tithe-payer, but perhaps not to the tithe-owner.

9435. Then, although you consider this an unsatisfactory principle upon which to commute tithes, you cannot suggest any other which you think would be more advantageous?—It is too difficult a question for me to venture an opinion upon.

9436. Mr. *Sanford.*] How long has that system of draining that you spoke of been applied to the land in your neighbourhood?—About eight years.

9437. Has it been chiefly applied to arable or to grazing land?—To both, principally to arable.

9438. Do you think it is likely to cause a permanent improvement in the land?—I do, decidedly.

9439. What is the comparative expense of that species of draining, with the other sort of draining which is usually adopted?—I should say it is not more than a third of the expense.

9440. Has it been very generally adopted?—It has, to a considerable extent.

9441. And now the system is increasing?—Yes, it is certainly.

9442. It applies particularly to the heavy clay land?—Yes, it does; it certainly is not adapted for light soils.

9443. Had there been other descriptions of draining adopted upon the clay lands previously?—Not to any great extent.

9444. What was it previously; the stone draining or the tile draining?—Principally wood was used in the drains; brushwood, bushes and so forth.

9445. Broken stone had not been used?—No, it had not.

9446. Mr. *Evans.*] Is it by the power of horses or of machinery that the draining is effected?—It is by the power of horses.

9447. Have you seen the mode now acted upon by machinery?—I have not seen it; but I understand the way in which it is done.

9448. You have stated what you conceive to be a remunerating price for oats; what do you conceive to be a remunerating price for wheat and barley?—I think that wheat cannot be grown to advantage, in our district, under three pounds or three guineas a quarter; barley, I should say, 35*s.*

9449. You have stated, that you grow clover for your own use: do you take the first crop of clover or the second crop for seed?—The second crop for seed.

9450. Sir *Edward Knatchbull.*] In what state are the tradespeople in your part of the country?—They complain that they cannot get their bills. I think myself that the rents are better paid than the tradesmen are at present; there has been a much greater complaint among them than I expected there would be.

9451. Does there appear to be a want of money in circulation?—There does. A few years back, I think, the landlords were worse paid than the tradesmen were.

9452. Mr. *Clive.*] You are acquainted with Pearson's plough for draining?—I am.

9453. Have you made use of it?—I have.

9454. Do you think that plough, as applied, answers the purpose for which it was intended?—It does, decidedly.

9455. Is it an expensive mode of draining?—No, it is not; the plough itself and the tools are rather expensive in the first instance.

9456. Is it what you yourself have used?—Yes, it is.

Mr. Thomas Neve. 25 April 1836.

9457. The expenses do not exceed more than 25 *l.*, do they?—No; I think about 20 *l.* or guineas, for the plough and the tools.

9458. What do you imagine is the cost per acre of draining land, to which it can be applied?—It does not exceed 2 *l.* per acre.

9459. How many men do you employ, on this system of draining?—Generally about 20, independently of those who are employed in driving the horses.

9460. How many horses do you employ?—Eight.

9461. And yet you say that the expense per acre is not more than 2 *l.*?—I did not mean to include the expense of the horses in that sum, because it is done at a season of the year when the horses would be standing still if they were not employed in that way.

9462. *Chairman.*] How many acres do you drain in a day?—About two acres a day.

9463. Will land so drained bear turnips?—It will, but turnips are not much grown in our district.

9464. How many horses are necessary to plough the land, when the draining has begun to act?—Generally four horses are employed in breaking up, and afterwards two or three in the stirring.

9465. Previously to the land being drained, how many horses were you obliged to employ upon it?—Never less than four.

9466. Then there has been no diminution in the number of horses necessary to be employed?—The farms generally are not very large with us, and upon most farms there is a four-horse team kept. It would not enable a farmer to send two teams to work the land; sometimes four are put on when they are not absolutely necessary. The land certainly ploughs more lightly after it is drained.

9467. Would not it answer to the farmer to plough with two horses in preference to four?—In our district, if we do not require four horses in the winter we generally do in the summer, when there is a great deal more work to do.

9468. Then you retain the horses for other purposes?—Yes.

9469. Mr. *Clive.*] Do you ever apply the windlass to that plough, in reference to eight horses?—We have not tried that in our neighbourhood; it has been done.

9470. With what success has it been tried?—Mr. Denison, the Member for Nottinghamshire, wrote to me some time back, saying that he had tried it with very good effect.

9471. But you yourself have not experienced it?—No.

9472. Mr. *Evans.*] What is the nature of the drain formed by the plough; are there any stones or any thing put into it afterwards?—Nothing after the drain is cut by the plough. There is a wooden slide, about six feet in length, put in, that exactly fits the bottom of the drain, and upon that the clay that is taken out is rammed; and this slide is gradually drawn forward.

9473. In subsequent ploughings, is not there danger that that kind of trench will be broken through by the plough and the horses?—From experience I find that that is not the case.

9474. What is the depth of the drain?—Two inches and a half, or three inches.

9475. What may be the width at the bottom of the drain?—About an inch at the bottom, and about two inches at the top.

9476. What is the distance from one drain to another?—About nine feet.

9477. *Chairman.*] What is the price of labour now in your district?—Two shillings a day.

Mr. *John Cramp,* called in; and Examined.

Mr. John Cramp.

9478. *Chairman.*] YOU live at Garling, in the Isle of Thanet?—I do.

9479. Were you examined before the Committee of 1833?—I was.

9480. Are you acquainted with a considerable district of the county of Kent besides the Isle of Thanet?—The eastern division of the county of Kent I am generally acquainted with.

9481. What is the nature of the soil in that division?—It is exceedingly various; the Isle of Thanet is pretty much of one description, a very dry and chalky soil, and the other parts are exceedingly various; some portion of it clay, and the other clay and mould.

9482. The

9482. The Isle of Thanet is a light soil, and easily cultivated?—Very easily cultivated.

9483. What have been the last three harvests?—The harvests in the Isle of Thanet have been exceedingly favourable with respect to weather; with respect to the amount of corn, I think the crop of 1834 was very deficient in barley the most so that I ever remember, and the last was very deficient in wheat; it begins now to be discovered to be much less than it was supposed to be.

9484. Was the wheat crop of 1833 a good crop?—In 1833 the crop of wheat was not more than the average; of 1834, the crop of wheat was about an average.

9485. And well got in?—And well got in.

9486. Are the farmers in a better or worse condition now than when you were last examined before the Committee?—I should say that they must be in a much worse condition; perhaps not obviously so; the greater portion of the Isle of Thanet farmers are cultivating their own estates, therefore the loss is not obvious; but that they must be considerable losers is evident.

9487. Then, in spite of the favourable seasons, you consider that they must have been losers?—Yes.

9488. Wheat forms only one portion of the corn grown in the Isle of Thanet; has not the price of barley been remunerating?—The price of barley for the crop of 1834 was high, but not sufficiently so for the deficiency of the crop; the crop of 1834 was very little over the half of a crop, and although the price of barley was 40*s.* and 41*s.*, yet it might be said, upon an average crop, to be not more than 24*s.*

9489. With respect to the barley grown in 1835, has much of that been sold?—Yes, a large portion of it; it has fetched higher prices, in consequence, I suppose, of the great deficiency of 1834; I think it had not resumed its equilibrium of value.

9490. What is your principal market-town in your district?—Some portion of it goes to Sandwich and the western division of the Isle of Thanet, some portion to Canterbury, and a very large portion comes to Mark Lane.

9491. Has there been a considerable improvement in the markets lately?—Very considerable within the last six weeks.

9492. What is the price of wheat in Canterbury now?—In Canterbury (not the Isle of Thanet wheats) the best wheats grown in that neighbourhood, I believe, fetched as high as three guineas; last Saturday 3*l.* I know was the current price.

9493. That would be a sufficiently high price to enable the farmer to grow wheat with a profit?—I think not.

9494. What ought it to be?—I am speaking now of the best quality of wheat; I think the *average* price of wheat ought to be 64*s.*

9495. Is not the quality of wheat in the Isle of Thanet exceedingly fine?—It is not equal to what it is in the parishes of Chislit, Reculvers, Herne, Wingham and Feversham, and several others.

9496. Is it not far above the average?—I think it is beyond the average, but not very far.

9497. Do not you grow beans and pease?—Beans are a very unproductive crop in the Isle of Thanet; pease are very precarious; we are exposed to very cold winds in the spring of the year.

9498. Then you rely upon the wheat and barley crop principally?—We do.

9499. Have you large flocks of sheep?—Not very; the farms are in small divisions; there are not more than three farms of 500 acres in the Isle of Thanet.

9500. Is there any other crop that you grow that is not commonly grown in other parts of the kingdom; do you grow carraway seeds?—I am a grower of carraway seeds, but it is an isolated case.

9501. You say that you think the condition of the farmer is worse than it was three years ago; have not the expenses of cultivation been reduced?—They have in some measure, but not at all equal to the depreciation in the value of the crops.

9502. And the increased amount of produce has not been sufficient to make up the deficiency of price?—I cannot find an increase of produce, taking the last three or four years, in the Isle of Thanet.

Mr. *John Cramp.*

15 April 1836.

9503. Do the wages of labour remain the same as they were four or five years ago?—No, we have reduced from 13*s.* 6*d.* to 12*s.*; I am speaking now of the steady labourers affixed to the farm, the others vary in proportion to their ability.

9504. Is not the labourer with 12*s.* a week well off?—Unless his family is large he is pretty well off.

9505. Do you ever remember the labourers to be in a much better condition than they are at present?—Yes.

9506. How many years ago is that?—Fifty.

9507. But is not the labourer with 12*s.* a week better off than he has been at any time during the last 20 years?—If the question is as to the steady, constant labourer, I should say that he is as well off; but during the war, when every man had employment, and they were earning from 18*s.* to a guinea a week, I think, generally speaking, they were better off than they are now.

9508. Were not all the articles of consumption of a labourer's family at a very high price then?—Much higher certainly.

9509. Taking that into consideration, do you think they were better off?—I think, taking the mass of the labourers, they were; but if I confine myself to the steady, fixed labourers, I should think they are as well off now as they ever have been.

9510. Have you many labourers out of employment now?—We have a great many.

9511. Has the Poor Law Amendment Bill been in operation in your neighbourhood?—It has just come into operation in the parish in which I reside; the other nine parishes have been united more than a twelvemonth, but in our parish we have only been united about a fortnight.

9512. Can you state whether in those nine parishes there has been any considerable reduction in the rates?—There has been a considerable reduction in some of the parishes where the parish was very much neglected, but I think in other parishes there has been but little reduction, and I do not contemplate that there will be but a very trifling reduction indeed.

9513. That is where the parish was previously well managed?—I think the old law was sufficient where it was well carried into execution; I speak from very positive knowledge, because I superintended the parish in which I live for many years, and created work of every description, and by doing so drove away the profligate and those that were imposing upon the parish, and by that means I think the rates were reduced to 4*s.* in the pound upon a moderate rental.

9514. Then you had adopted in your parish very much the principles of the present law?—So much so that Sir Francis Head said that he could see no improvement to be made except in the bill of fare in the house.

9515. Sir Francis Head was the Assistant Poor Law Commissioner?—He was.

9516. Can you state whether there is any measure of relief which it is in the power of the Legislature to afford to the farmer under his present circumstances?—I do not know how far it is within the province of the Legislature, but I think there is a measure which could do it; I think we want better prices; it is impossible under the present circumstances to reduce the cost price of produce lower than it is at the present day; every economy has been practised, and every wheel has been put in motion that would have a tendency to reduce it that could practically and profitably be done, and therefore there is nothing but higher prices that can benefit the farmer.

9517. How are those higher prices to be secured?—I think if there was more money in the country.

9518. If prices were raised generally, would not the price of the cost of cultivation be equally increased?—Yes, but not in the same ratio. I recollect Sir Robert Peel's arguments; he said in his argument upon that question last June, that as all other articles would be increased in the same proportion, the farmer, as a buyer and a seller, would be placed in precisely the same situation; now, in bringing it into practice, which I did upon paper, (and I have it I think in my pocket,) I found that upon a farm of 400 acres, taking a certain per-centage of advance upon all that he had to buy and all that he had to sell, there would be a benefit of 526*l.* supposing that it was raised 40 per cent.; and I went into it very minutely, because it will clearly be seen that a great

great portion of his expenditure is a fixed one; his rent is a fixed article, and his taxes are fixed, and his labour in a great measure is fixed; for although the price of corn at the present day would, if it could be carried into execution, reduce the labourers' wages to about 7*s.* a week, yet, as that cannot be done, he is therefore fixed in a great measure to that article. The tradesman also, who raised his wages during the war, has never fallen back to the prices of corn, and therefore four parts in five are fixed. There is only a small portion of his payment for labour that would be increased by a general increase of value.

9519. You speak of taxes being fixed, what taxes do you refer to?—I am speaking of the poor-rate, highway-rate, church-rate, county-rate and all those rates which are immediately connected with the farm.

9520. You mean the local taxes?—Yes.

9521. What is the amount of your poor-rates in the pound?—They were expected for the present year to have been 4*s.* in the pound, rated upon about two-thirds of rack rent.

9522. How much does the highway-rate amount to?—In consequence of a number of labourers being out of employment, and being very desirous to employ them, perhaps more has been done to the roads than would otherwise have been done, that has been about 1*s.* in the pound.

9523. In fact the highways have been the workhouse?—Yes.

9524. What has been the pressure of the county-rate upon your farm?—It is about a fourteenth part of the poor-rate, that would be the fourteenth part of 4*s.* in the pound.

9525. Are the tithes taken in kind, or by composition?—They are taken in kind, in some parts of the Isle of Thanet, both rectorial and vicarial; of the vicarial about 4,000 acres, but the whole of the rectorial tithes are taken in kind.

9526. What is the expense of collecting the tithe in kind?—The setting out, the collection and thrashing, and carrying to market, and keeping the premises in repair, &c., is as nearly 25 per cent. as possible. I have taken the pains to go into the minutiæ of the expenditure, for the purpose of showing it; I have made it 24*l.* 19*s.* 10½*d.* upon 100*l.* I have got a statement of an assumed farm of 152 acres and its produce. It is that course of cultivation which is pursued in the Isle of Thanet upon the average quality of soil; it is true, that finding that the gross value of the produce came very near to 1,000*l.*, I accommodated a certain article, which is the straw, the chaff, &c. &c., perhaps a few pounds one way or the other, in order that the tithe should be just 100*l.*, that I might find a per centage. I set off with that object in view.

9527. Can you give in that statement to the Committe?—By all means.

[*The Witness delivered in the same, which was read as follows:*]

THE following scheme will prove to a demonstration, that upon cultivated land there can exist no difficulty in arriving at a fair and just commutative value of the tithes upon any given value of produce, provided the QUANTITY of produce is accurately estimated.

The rotation of cropping here introduced is very general upon soils that are friable and fertile; but the scheme is applicable to every variation of culture.

	Number of Acres.	Produce per Acre.	Total Quantity.	Value per Quarter.	TOTAL Value.	Gross Tithe Value.
	A. R. P.	*Qrs.* *Bus.*	*Qrs.* *Bus.*	£. *s.*	£. *s.*	£. *s.* *d.*
Wheat	38 – –	4 –	152 –	2 10	380 –	38 – –
Turnips	19 – –	– –	per acre	3 10	66 10	6 13 –
Peas	19 – –	3 –	57 –	1 10	85 10	8 11 –
Barley	19 – –	5 –	95 –	1 8	133 –	13 6 –
Oats	19 – –	6 –	114 –	1 –	114 –	11 8 –
Beans	19 – –	3 4	66 4	1 10	99 15	9 19 6
Clover	19 – –	– –	per acre	4 –	76 –	7 12 –
	152 – –					
Straw and chaff, at foddering price					39 5	3 18 6
The farm-yard, poultry, pigs, &c. &c., say					6 –	– 12 –
				£.	1,000 –	100 – –

Mr. *John Cramp.*

15 April 1836.

	£.	s.	d.			
Deductions to be allowed by the tithe-owner:						
Setting out and carriage to barn, stacking, &c. &c.	6	8	1			
Thrashing	5	15	6½			
Carriage to market	3	3	–			
Rent and repairs of buildings	6	–	–			
Losses by weather, vermin, &c.	2	–	–			
Allowance for the turnips	1	13	3			
				24	19	10½
				£. 75	–	1½
I claim an allowance of 10 per cent. upon this balance from the tithe owners, as a wholesale dealer, taking all off his care and future attention				7	5	–
				£. 67	15	1½

These calculations are made in a part of the country, where every facility exists for collecting the tithes; the fields free from fences of every kind, and the waggons crossing in the most direct way from one part to another, and the country a complete level: and all the roads good for the easy conveyance of the produce to and from the tithe barn.

They must be taken, therefore (in reference to the collection), as upon the lowest possible scale of expense; in many districts, I think, that portion of expense would be more than doubled.

By far the greatest portion of the difficulties which seem to perplex the Government, in preparing a measure to adjust this important question, lie in the infinite variety of LOCALITIES; but if a general principle was to be adopted, founded upon a very simple plan which I am prepared to submit, and placed in the hands of intelligent and practical men well acquainted with all these Localities, every apparent difficulty would vanish.

The deductions before-mentioned in detail. The farm of 152 acres is supposed to be one-tenth of the parish or tithe district.

COLLECTING TITHES:	£.	s.	d.
To one man for setting out and superintending the waggons the whole harvest, at 1 *l.* 1 *s.* per week, and board 9 *s.* for four weeks, is	6	–	–
To two waggons and three horses, each at 1 *l.* per day, four weeks or 24 days	24	–	–
To four men with the waggons, at 4 *s.* per day each man, 24 days	19	4	–
To two men to stack and stow, 4 *s.* each	9	12	–
Beer, one gallon per man per day	2	14	6
Thatching and materials	2	10	–
This farm being one-tenth of the whole (10)	64	–	6
THRASHING:	6	8	1
15⅕ quarters of wheat, at 3 *s.* 6 *d.* per quarter	2	13	–
5⅔ ditto of peas, at 2 *s.* per ditto	–	11	4
9½ ditto of barley, at 2 *s.* 3 *d* per ditto	1	1	4½
11⅔ ditto of oats, at 1 *s.* 6 *d.* per ditto	–	16	7
6⅖ ditto of beans, at 2 *s.* per ditto	–	13	3
	5	15	6½
BUILDINGS:			
The buildings necessary to embarn the corn arising in the whole tithing, may be fairly estimated at 1,000 *l.*, which at 6 per cent. is 60 *l.*, one-tenth	6	–	–
Spoil by bad weather, vermin, &c. 20 *l.*, one-tenth	2	–	–
25 per cent. upon the full value of turnips	1	13	3
	21	16	10½
Omitted carriage to market	3	3	–
£.	24	19	10½

Query.—It being a year after purchase or hire of the tithe before any return is made, should not interest be charged, if paid agreeably to Lord John Russell's plan?

9528. Where the tithe is taken in kind, are the shocks taken off the ground by the tithe owner?—Yes.

9529. And he takes the straw as well as the corn?—He takes the straw and chaff and corn.

9530. Would it not be a considerable advantage to the farmer in your district if there was a commutation of tithes?—It would be very desirable; there would be no other advantage than that the farmer would not be at the same expense as the tithe collector; because having his establishment, his waggons being in the

the field, they would take up of course the tenth shock, at almost the same amount of expense that he took up the nine; and thus about 25 per cent. would be saved for the expenses of collection.

9531. The tenth part of the produce would be collected by the farmer with comparatively a small increase of expense?—It would be scarcely any other expense, because he would keep the same establishment.

9532. And he would have the advantage of the straw for his fodder?—Yes.

9533. Sir *Edward Knatchbull.*] You think it would take a tithe collector 25 per cent. to collect his tithe, whereas the greater part of that would be saved to the farmer, by the convenience he possesses in his own farming establishment?—That is what I mean. There is one thing that must be taken out of the 25 per cent., which would be no benefit to the farmer; of course it would cost him as much to thrash as the tithe owner.

9534. *Chairman.*] Have you seen the Bill now before the House of Commons for the commutation of tithe?—I saw it before it was in an amended state; I have not seen it since.

9535. Do you think that Bill would be satisfactory in your neighbourhood?—No; I think very unsatisfactory.

9536. What are your objections to it?—The first objection is to the seven years' previous averages forming the basis upon which the calculations are to be made. I have put on paper some observations upon it: the first objection, which I think is insurmountable, is, that of its being commuted in perpetuity. I think it is impossible for any legislature, or for the wisdom of man, to devise a measure for the commutation of tithes in perpetuity, but what ultimately one party on the other must be sufferers; and therefore the remedy to that, I should say, was to make it open to revision every seven years.

9537. Although the rent-charge would be settled by the price of corn, you think it would be impossible to settle it satisfactorily in perpetuity?—Quite impossible; because a great deal of the land at present must be deteriorated in course of time, if the price of produce should remain as it is; that is one of the chances I allude to. A great deal of land has been kept up in a state of high cultivation entirely by artificial means, and those artificial means must subside.

9538. Mr. *Sanford.*] Would you give the power of that revision to both parties?—Yes, to either party.

9539. Lord Viscount *Howick.*] Do not you apprehend, that by giving that power of revision to both parties, you would take away the principal advantage of the measure by discouraging future improvement?—The future improvement of the soil I should not allow to be touched; because where we find land in high cultivation the value of the tithe ought not to be raised to that extra state of cultivation, knowing that it is the effect of capital, and not from the ordinary mode of cultivation.

9540. Then, in fact, that revision, which you said was to apply both ways, would apply only one way; because, if in consequence of the greater amount of capital being laid out, the produce was increased, you would not allow the clergyman to increase the tithe; but if cultivation deteriorated you would allow it to be diminished?—No, that is not my principle. I state, that if any change of cultivation takes place, either by increasing the number of acres of grass upon a farm, or increasing the number of acres of corn, with respect to which the cultivation may, in all probability, be changed by the one or the other preponderating as to profit, that either party should be at liberty to have a revision, but not upon the state of the land by artificial means. I should, first of all, set the quantity which the native productiveness, by the ordinary mode of cultivation practised in that district, would produce, and that quantity (minus its proper deductions) should be redeemable every year by the current value of that produce, whether it is wheat or barley, whether it is wheat or oats, or whatever was the prevalent growth in that district. Having fixed those certain quantities, no additional outlay of the capital or diminution of the growth should induce me to alter it. In the first place, not taking advantage of any extra cultivation, I should never be in a situation to make any alteration in it.

9541. Do not you think there would be great difficulty in determining what that average cultivation upon which the charge is to be founded is?—None whatever.

9542. Do not you think that where a farm happens to be in worse cultiva-

Mr. *John Cramp.*

15 April 1836.

tion than you think it ought to be, great complaints would be made, if in consequence of this system the charge was raised?—No man would continue to farm upon a system that did not keep it up to a certain point; for if it went below it, it must be his ruin, and he never would continue to do it. I would put the charge according to that mode of cultivation that every man must keep up to, if he went on farming.

9543. You are aware that at this amount the charges founded upon the actual amount of gross produce, would not there be something very arbitrary in unsettling that, and fixing the charge, not upon the actual gross produce, but upon an estimate of what, in the judgment of certain persons, the produce ought to be?—There is no doubt that that question must be first of all settled; there is a great variety of opinion upon it; but I believe that, generally speaking, the clergy themselves disavow the opinion that it ought to be taken to the full extent of extra cultivation. For example, where barren and unprofitable land is brought into a high state of cultivation, not by the expenditure of its own produce merely in reproduction, but by the expenditure of extra capital for artificial manure, I do not think the clergy generally wish that to be taken into the calculation; those that I have conversed with have all distinctly stated otherwise.

9544. Mr. *Sanford.*] Upon an estate, which at the present moment is in a high state of cultivation, that cultivation having been produced by a considerable outlay of capital, in what way would you form your calculation as to the amount of tithe to be paid from that estate according to its natural productiveness?—As I should find the land surrounding it; it is impossible to find a whole parish in that state. I should find the native productiveness of that soil in a great many instances before me; that would be the criterion. I know many instances at this moment of that kind, having turned a great deal of attention to the valuation of tithe. I know instances where the land is completely of another colour in consequence of fifty or sixty years high cultivation, that being in the possession of the proprietor himself, and the other being let to tenants in succession. I find the tenant's land to have its native productiveness, but find the other to have an artificial one. In those two soils, which are of the same level of course, I should put the same amount of tithe.

9545. Then, you would go back to the earliest period of native productiveness of that land?—No; I mean in modern agriculture.

9546. *Chairman.*] You would value the tithe according to the quality of the land?—The quality of the land, with the usual modern mode of cultivation.

9547. Mr. *Sanford.*] Do not you think that seven years is too short for revision?—I think not; I see no objection to it. I think, in five cases out of six, they would go on as usual. There would be here and there a case to the contrary; and those parties that had first settled it, or their successors, would find no difficulty whatever. The matter has been done wherever parties have been inclined to compound. I have never found any difficulty in bringing the thing to a satisfactory issue between the two parties, nor do I think there is any; first settling the principle upon which tithes are to be taken. If they are to be taken to the full amount of produce, that is a distinct thing.

9548. Will you state any other objections you have to the Bill?—The seven preceding years for levelling the rent-charge I think is exceedingly bad. I think it should be the quantity of produce to be grown, and not that which has been grown, upon which the judgment of those who have to carry it into execution would be exercised. I think the quantity of produce to be grown is the only just principle, and that quantity charged upon the current price each year; upon that subject I have never seen any difficulty. If I went to commute the tithes upon a farm, I should make my calculations as to what would be the probable produce, taking the rotation of cropping pursued in that neighbourhood.

9549. Have you any other objection to the Tithe Bill?—I think the adjusting it by assistant-commissioners, unless they were practically and locally acquainted, would be likely to be bad; there ought to be a great deal of local knowledge in matters of that sort. If the country were divided into districts, and to each a long experienced and practical person were appointed, every difficulty is at once got rid of. The objections to the assistant-commissioner appears to me to be this; first, that some soil is very subject to blight, when blight prevails, more so than others, and of that he never could be a judge. The crops of corn and straw are often at variance with each other, and also their particular value. In

some instances the tithe-holder is obliged, from his locality, to consume the straw upon his own estate; in others, where they are near market towns, it is very valuable. Those are points that want adjusting by local experience.

9550. Mr. *Sanford.*] What is your opinion with regard to its being voluntary or compulsory?—I should rather that it would be voluntary than compulsory, under a measure that would be unpalatable. I see no good to be obtained by a compulsory measure, except where it is taken in kind. That is the most obnoxious part of the tithe system; and, as far as that goes, I think a compulsory measure would be better received by the country. But, I believe that in many counties, where they are at present under commutation or composition, in all probability the parties would soon come to an understanding, particularly where the tithes belonged to two distinct parties, the rectorial and the vicarial. I have no hesitation in saying that the clergy would at once embrace the measure, and they would drive the others to it in a few years.

9551. You think that if the power were given of a voluntary commutation of tithe it would be generally adopted?—I think it would ultimately; I do not think it would at once, for some time. Those who are provided with conveniences for taking in the corn, for instance, (I am speaking now of the Isle of Thanet,) and have got their homesteads and their cattle and their waggons for taking it, of course they would never come into a voluntary measure, and particularly where they take both sorts, as they do there. But in general, where a clergyman takes the vicarial tithe, I think he would embrace the measure at once, and that would drive the others in the course of time to it; because, after I had commuted with my vicar for the vicarial tithes, if the other did not come in too, of course I should press upon that cultivation rather more; and I should gain by it.

9552. Sir *Edward Knatchbull.*] Have you always entertained that opinion?—I think I have a little varied from that; I have taken it rather more under serious consideration lately, by seeing the provisions in the present Bill.

9553. Did you think at one time that the compulsory system was a preferable one?—I thought it was; but on further inquiry, I think the voluntary system is better, excepting where the parties have the means of taking it in kind; that should be got rid of.

9554. Mr. *Sanford.*] Which you consider also the most onerous part?—Yes.

9555. Sir *Edward Knatchbull.*] Do you happen, with regard to the Tithe Bill now before the House, to have made any calculation what you would have to pay for tithes in any part of your district; in your own case, for instance?—I have not done so.

9556. Do you think you should be willing permanently to fix upon the land the payment of such a sum for tithe as in your judgment you would be called upon to pay under the present Tithe Bill?—No, certainly not.

9557. Is there anything else you wish to mention on this subject?—There is one thing which I thought might be advisable, to keep the parties from coming into collision; namely, that a receiver, with summary power for the recovery of tithes, should be appointed in certain districts, to keep the parties completely asunder.

9558. You think, that in the event of a commutation of tithes being effected, some middle person, between the payer and the receiver, should be appointed, to prevent the clergy and the tithe-payers from coming into collision?—Yes, in all probability one party would think themselves aggrieved; and the more distinct they are kept the better.

9559. Can you suggest any legislative measure, by which the landed interests of the country could be benefited?—The only thing that I would state would be, that the commutation measure should be for seven years; that the parties who should have to carry it into execution should be men well acquainted with the subject, and should have certain districts appointed to them; and I think under those circumstances there would be very little difficulty; but otherwise I think there would; because there are usages in the different counties which are at variance with the law of tithes, and those usages are themselves a great difficulty to reconcile. I do not see how it is easily done; but according to the usage in many counties they pay so much less than the right of the tithe-holder. If those things could be accommodated by the men that had to carry them into execution, it would be desirable; but I am not able to speak to that.

9560. *Chairman.*] What is the rent upon your land in Thanet?—The rents

Mr. *John Cramp.*

15 April 1836.

have been reduced in many instances; they are now I believe averaging about 30*s.* an acre.

9561. What were they four or five years ago?—Forty shillings, six years ago; about the year 1830 there were several reduced.

9562. Then the landiords have shown a disposition to meet the bad times?—In many cases; but a large proportion of the Isle of Thanet is in the hands of proprietors.

9563. Sir *Edward Knatchbull.*] What is the present prospect of the crops?—In the Isle of Thanet it is very fair, but beyond the Isle of Thanet it looks very bad; the wheat is scarcely to be seen that it is wheat; and in a great part of the county, from Dover to Canterbury, I never saw the wheat in such a bad state.

9564. Mr. *Sanford.*] Do you think there was much less wheat sown in the last Autumn than in the previous years?—Yes, I think there is a diminished quantity; but in the eastern division of Kent, not very materially.

9565. Mr. *Anderson Pelham.*] Do you think that, with regard to the commutation of tithes, it would be a good thing to have a corn-rent?—Yes.

9566. How would you take it upon wheat, barley and oats?—I should take it upon wheat and barley for our soils, and in other cases for wheat and oats, and in other cases I should comprise beans with it. It must depend upon the course of cropping in the district.

9567. In any general Act you could not specify that, but you must make one measure for the whole?—No, I do not see any difficulty in that, that the two leading crops in the district should be the crops upon which the prices should be regulated.

9568. What should you recommend upon grass land?—A certain proportion of the rent will always settle that, from an eighth to a tenth of the rent; there is no expenditure upon grass land, therefore it is nothing but the crop; from an eighth to a tenth of the rent, is the rule by which I have settled a great many acres.

9569. Mr. *Clive.*] You would not use the price of meat for a guide upon grass land?—The price of meat will always regulate the price of land; I should have a valued rent, not the absolute rent paid.

9570. Mr. *Sanford.*] Do you think it would be equitable to fix the payment of small tithes according to the price of corn?—Yes, taking those small tithes to be artificial grasses and seeds, and all those articles that come under the denomination of small tithes; I am not speaking of pasture and grass; I am speaking of the small tithes arising from the plough; there could be no difficulty in settling the small tithes value, because they are, upon the average of years, regulated by the corn, such as clover, cinquefoil, and a variety of other things.

9571. Wool, for instance?—Wool is generally grass produce; that is, permanent pasture.

9572. Wool is produced in many instances on arable land?—Where you are feeding turnips; but then the turnips would be the preparatory crop for the land; but it is not upon turnips that wool is produced; the sheep go to be fatted somewhere else; it is only a portion of the year that the sheep are brought there. Besides, turnips are never cultivated as a profitable crop; they are always a preparatory crop to something else.

9573. Sir *Edward Knatchbull.*] The value of turnip land for tithe would be fixed by the average price of grain?—Yes.

9574. Mr. *Pelham.*] With regard to turnips, are you aware that in Lincolnshire there are some large breeding farms, where persons keep a large number of sheep upon their turnips, and they have no grass to feed them upon?—Yes, it is very possible; all those articles will vary from time to time; wool has been at a high price for these last four or five years, but we cannot say what it may be; I should think it will have its day.

9575. Sir *Edward Knatchbull.*] Do you think the repeal of the malt duty would benefit the farmer to any extent?—I think it would.

9576. In what way?—It would benefit them in two or three different ways; but I think most of all by a demand for the article; it would extend its growth, it would take barley over a large portion of land that would otherwise be sown with wheat, and wheat would sell higher. Then again the advantages to the farmer would be very considerable; the farmers are all great consumers; but

Mr. *John Cramp.*

15 April 1836.

the grand point would be the benefit to the feeding of cattle; that would be a very considerable benefit.

9577. You are aware of the amount of revenue derived from the duty on malt; if that were repealed, would it not be necessary to replace that deficiency by some other means?—Yes; I think a considerable portion of it might be levied on the sale of beer; it was a very imprudent thing taking that off; if that were replaced, then I should say there would not be more than a third part of it lost.

9578. Can you suggest any other means by which that deficiency might be supplied?—No, I do not know that I can at present, unless a small equitable land tax was levied, comprising the funds, the new buildings and houses along with the land, and all those things that are scot-free now.

9579. Should you like to have a property tax substituted in lieu of the malt tax?—No.

9580. Marquis of *Chandos.*] If you could not have a repeal of the whole of the tax would not a reduction of it be of some use?—No; I should rather it should remain as it is, because we have got all the machinery of inquisitorial inspection. No farmer would be allowed to make his malt for brewing his beer, and we could not use it for our cattle; I should rather wait till Government found it expedient to repeal the whole of it. I hope that when they can do it, they will.

9581. Mr. *Evans.*] You have stated that the labourers in your neighbourhood are numerous and in rather a distressed state; has any invitation been held out to them to change to a manufacturing district?—Yes, in my immediate neighbourhood. I understand that it has been held out by the union.

9582. Have any of them availed themselves of it?—One family went from a neighbouring parish last week.

9583. Has emigration been resorted to?—We have had three or four families only.

9584. Is it by parochial subscription or by the landlords?—They have been sent by the parochial funds.

9585. And it has not, to any extent, been resorted to?—No.

9586. What is your opinion of the effect of emigration; do not you think it would be advantageous?—I can scarcely give an opinion upon it. I do not think we have too many people in the country if they could be employed.

9587. You mentioned that there was rather a surplus?—There is a superabundance, but it is in consequence of the great want of employment.

9588. *Chairman.*] Is that superabundance confined to your own district, or does it extend generally to the eastern division of Kent?—I should say a large portion of the eastern division of Kent; there are some parishes that have not that superabundance, but we lie in the neighbourhood of large towns, where there are constantly some speculative adventures.

9589. Mr. *Evans.*] Will not the Poor Law Amendment Bill tend, in a great degree, to circulate labour more freely than before?—I think it will.

9590. And, therefore, the superabundant labourers in any parish may be drafted off to a parish that requires labourers?—Yes; but after all, I think there is a surplus and a very considerable one; when they are put upon an equality, so that each district takes its proportion, there must be a great many left.

9591. But so far as it goes, you think it will operate advantageously?—I think it will, but I am not a very great friend to sending agricultural labourers into manufacturing districts. In the first place they are very unfit for it, and in the next place, it must be very hazardous; for if the manufacture should not maintain its present prosperous condition, he would come back in a much worse state than he went.

9592. Have you any other suggestions to offer?—No; I do not know any others.

Mr. *Joseph Cook Arnall,* called in; and Examined.

Mr. *J. C. Arnall.*

9593. *Chairman.*] WHERE do you reside?—At Boston, in Lincolnshire.

9594. You are the corn inspector there?—I am.

9595. Do you consider that under the present system of striking the averages, it is possible that any fraud can creep in?—I am not aware of any practical improvement that could be made in the present mode of striking the

Mr. *J. C. Arnall.*

15 April 1836.

averages, although I apprehend in certain cases it would be possible for frauds to creep in.

9596. To your knowledge, since the year 1828, since the last corn law past, have there been any frauds committed, with the view of raising the price of corn, so as to reduce the amount of duty?—I think there have.

9597. To any great extent?—There have been one or two attempts made to influence the averages by making false returns, but the attempt was such as immediately to attract my notice, and to convince me that something wrong was intended on the part of the parties making the returns; that I immediately communicated to Mr. Jacob, and some correspondence took place between Mr. Jacob and myself on that subject; the result of that was, that the returns were struck out, and not admitted into the general average; but since that period I do not think that any attempts have been made to influence the average by false returns, inasmuch as the parties saw that, in order to influence the returns, they must have recourse to some out-and-out sort of measure, which it was impossible should elude the observation of the inspector, if he did his duty.

9598. You make the returns now upon the evidence of the buyers?—The buyers make the returns.

9599. Do you think it would be of any advantage if the sellers were called upon to make returns as well as the buyers?—I do not think it would; when I consider that the greater part of the farmers in our neighbourhood are very illiterate, and that many of them cannot even write their own names, and were altogether unacquainted with figures, I am sure that if the law required the sellers to make the returns, the returns never would be obtained from them at all, or at least in so imperfect a state that they never could be acted upon.

9600. There is no motive for those fictitious sales, as long as the price of corn is low?—I apprehend not.

9601. Then for the last two years you do not consider that there have been any sales of that description?—I do not believe there have; I always take care to acquaint myself with the going price of the market, and if the going price for wheat was about 40*s.* and I perceived a return either at 45*s.* or at 35*s.*, my attention would be immediately called to the thing, and I should investigate it; and if on investigation I found that my suspicions were well grounded, I should represent the circumstance to the Board of Trade, and cause it to be struck out; that has been the case, and I have done it.

9602. In a return which has been presented to the Committee, containing an account of the number of quarters of wheat sold in certain markets of this kingdom, it appears that in Boston in the year 1829 there were 72,964 quarters of corn, and in 1834, 131,370.; should you say that that was a fair measure of comparison between those two years?—I should think that it is.

9603. Then you consider that nearly double the number of quarters of wheat were sold in 1834 as in 1829?—There is a great deal more wheat grown in the fens of Lincolnshire than there used to be some years ago; the corn grown in the fens of Lincolnshire some years back was principally confined to oats; the land is brought into a better state of cultivation, and now the returns of oats have fallen off, and the returns of wheat have considerably increased.

9604. Does the principal quantity of corn grown in that fen land come to Boston, and is it shipped at Boston?—It is.

9605. Then this enormous increase in the quantity of wheat, must have had some effect on the average price the last three years?—I think it has.

9606. Do you attribute the low price of wheat the last three years, principally to that cause?—To the greater quantity of wheat grown, and to the abundance of the three last crops.

9607. You are not a farmer yourself?—No; perhaps I am giving an opinion upon matters which are rather beyond my knowledge.

9608. Sir *Edward Knatchbull.*] Do you apprehend that all the wheat sent to Boston is included in the average?—No; but I think nearly the whole is.

9609. If any is excluded, what description of wheat is it?—I do not think there is any particular description that is left out. Some of the parties may at times be remiss in making the returns, and as I know who are the dealers before I make out my returns, if I do not get a return from any particular dealer, I call upon him, to ascertain whether he has bought anything or not. If he says he has not bought anything that is enough. At times he says, "I am sorry it escaped me

but

but I will make out the return immediately." I do not, however, think there is any particular sort of wheat that is purposely excluded.

9610. Does it sometimes happen that the same wheat is returned more than once?—Yes, it happens occasionally.

9611. Is that to any extent?—Yes, at times I think it is rather considerable.

9612. That is a defect then, in the working of the law?—I cannot see that it is a defect myself.

9613. Supposing that the same wheat of good quality and of high price is returned frequently, will not that tend to raise the average price?—Certainly; but I see no impropriety in that, so long as the sales returned are *bonâ fide* sales.

9614. Does not it hold forth the belief, that a greater quantity of wheat is sold, than is actually sold?—Certainly, it multiplies the quantity sold, without the produce being equal to it.

9615. And it increases the price?—I do not know what to say to that exactly.

9616. Is there much wheat sold in the country districts, in that part of the country, that does not come to Boston?—A good deal.

9617. What description of wheat is that; do they send their best qualities of wheat to Boston?—At Boston market all descriptions of wheat are sold.

9618. The wheat that is consumed in the country districts, is not included in the return of wheat sold at Boston?—Certainly not, ours is a return of corn sold within the town of Boston.

9619. And what is sold in the country districts, is not included in the average?—It is not.

9620. Is it the practice of the farmers to retain for their own consumption their inferior description of wheat, and to send the best to market?—I should think the farmer, generally, takes care to reserve for his own use wheat of a fair quality.

9621. Do not you think he would rather consume that for which he would get a low price, and send that to market for which he could get a high price?—Some of the farmers are a very mean sort of people, and would, I dare say, consume the worst quality, whereas others would consume the best quality. Avaricious sort of men will live upon any thing, while others live exceedingly well and they will consume the best sort of wheat.

9622. A considerable quantity of the wheat in your district does not enter into the averages?—Certainly.

9623. *Chairman.*] Is there much foreign corn bonded at Boston?—None at all.

9624. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] Is there the same degree of regularity respecting other species of corn as there is with the wheat?—Quite so.

9625. Do the corn merchants generally make regular returns?—The return of each individual merchant always contains a list of every farmer of whom he has purchased corn, together with the prices, and the quantity of each sale.

9626. And that practice is pursued generally?—Generally, throughout the kingdom. Those returns are then entered into a book; and if the farmers would only make a point of occasionally calling upon the inspector, and ascertaining from him whether the sales they have made have been correctly returned, that would, in my opinion, operate as a complete preventative against anything in the shape of fraud being attempted by the purchasers in making their returns.

9627. Mr. *Clive.*] Taking the averages of sales, from 1828 up to the present period, may it not be fairly conceived that the quantities comparing one with another are a fair criterion for guidance?—I think it may. Every merchant returns a list of every name of whom he purchases, amounting in some instances to 150 or 200 in the week. It is attended with a good deal of trouble to make out these returns and they are made out after the market is over.

9628. Mr. *Pelham.*] You have stated that; if the corn dealers do not give you the returns you sometimes call upon them; do you endeavour to obtain the returns from the farmers also?—Never; the Act of Parliament does not require it. I have held the situation of corn inspector at Boston about 27 years, and my habit has been always to conduct the business in the most conciliatory manner; and by reminding the merchants in a courteous manner when they have omit-

Mr. *J. C. Arnall.*
15 April 1836.

ted to make a return. I have been able to conduct the business without ever having laid a single information against any dealer; and by that means the returns have been got very correctly. Although I have heard several theoretical schemes suggested as to improvements in the mode of taking the averages I should say, that, from the practical knowledge I have obtained from 27 years' practice, I do not see that any improvement can be effected at all; and I think the business done in Boston is a very fair criterion of the whole country.

Martis, 19° die Aprilis, 1836.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Shaw Lefevre.	Mr. Robert Clive.
Mr. William Gordon.	Mr. Clay.
Mr. William Miles.	Mr. Wodehouse.
Mr. Evans.	Sir Robert Peel.
Mr. Bingham Baring.	Sir James Graham.
Mr. Sanford.	Mr. Gilbert Heathcote.
Marquis of Chandos.	Earl of Lincoln.
Mr. Cayley.	Mr. Anderson Pelham.
Mr. Loch.	Mr. Morrison.
Mr. Handley.	

MR. SHAW LEFEVRE, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *Robert Hope,* called in; and Examined.

Mr. *Robert Hope.*
19 April 1836.

9629. *Chairman.*] WHERE do you reside?—At Fanton Barnes, near Haddington.

9630. Do you occupy a considerable tract of land there?—Yes, I occupy 520 Scotch acres, or about 650 English acres.

9631. What is the nature of the soil?—It is generally heavy land, upon a close retentive subsoil.

9632. Do you rent under anybody, or is it your own land?—I rent my land under Mrs. Hamilton Nesbitt Fergusson.

9633. You say it is a strong retentive soil; have you improved it lately by draining?—Yes; I have done a good deal by draining, within the last 20 years.

9634. Is that principally furrow draining?—Within the last 20 years there is a great deal done in deep draining; and within the last three years we have now begun to furrow drain.

9635. Has that draining been done entirely at the expense of the tenant, or jointly at the expense of the tenant and the landlord?—Hitherto it has been done by the tenant; in future, I shall be allowed a hundred a-year by the proprietor.

9636. Is it tile draining?—Yes.

9637. What has been the state of your crops, the last three or four years?—We have had very good crops the last four years.

9638. Good crops of wheat, or of every description?—Generally speaking, all the crops have been good; but of the wheat every crop, the last four years, has been fully above an average crop.

9639. Does that equally apply to oats and barley?—I would say that they have been fair average crops, nothing particular; the Spring grains have been all fair average crops.

9640. When did you take this farm?—I succeeded my father; I have been there since I was very young; since the year 1801.

9641. Then you can say confidently that the crops of the last four years have been considerably more than the average of the preceding years?—Decidedly superior.

9642. Can you state what was the average of the three preceding years?—The last four years my wheat crop has averaged 607 quarters, exclusive of the seed; it is about 657 quarters of wheat upon 145 Scotch acres; that is, upon 175 English acres.

9643. What

9643. What was the average of the four years preceding?—For the four years 1828, 1829, 1830 and 1831, my wheat averaged, upon the same quantity of land, about 385 quarters.

9644. Has that very considerable increase beyond the average arisen from the favourable nature of the seasons, or from the improvement of the farm?—Chiefly from the favourable seasons; the improvement has had its effect in a small degree; but chiefly from the favourable seasons for the growth of wheat.

9645. Is land in East Lothian let chiefly upon lease, or from year to year?—It is all let upon lease.

9646. What is the usual term of the leases?—Nineteen or 21 years is the general term of lease.

9647. Is it let at a money-rent, or a corn-rent?—At least two-thirds of the county is now let at a corn-rent; 20 years ago it was at money-rent, and now there are at least two-thirds converted into corn-rents.

9648. Is the corn-rent regulated by the price of wheat, or of any other grain?—Almost invariably by the price of wheat; in a few cases, barley or oats may be taken, but nineteen-twentieths are wheat entirely.

9649. Do you pay your labourers money-wages, or in kind?—Our regular farming servants are all paid in kind; our day-labourers are all paid in money.

9650. Do many of the farm servants reside in the farm-houses?—Yes, always a portion of them; we wish, in general, to have the young men under our own eye in the kitchen.

9651. But even those that reside out of the farm-house you pay in kind, and not in money?—All the married farm servants, the regular farm servants, are paid in kind.

9652. What do you pay a common farm labourer by the year; what quantity of grain do you give him?—They have nine quarters of oats, two quarters two bushels of barley, one quarter of peas, a cow's grass upon the farm, and about from three to five bolls of potatoes, that is from 12 to 16 hundred weight.

9653. Marquis of *Chandos.*] Is that one cow for all the farm servants?—Each married farm servant has a cow; the cow is his own property, and the farmer keeps it upon his farm.

9654. So that each married farm servant upon your farm has a cow?—Yes.

9655. *Chairman.*] As your rent has varied according to the price of wheat, and as your labourers' wages have varied with the price of corn, it is presumed that you have not suffered much distress from the low price of wheat, for the last two years?—No; the farmers who have a corn-rent have not suffered any thing for the last four years with us, because our rent is regulated by the price of wheat; and one great proportion of our farm servants are paid in kind, and their wages rise and fall according to the price of grain chiefly.

9656. You were understood to say that three-fourths of the tenants in East Lothian hold their farms at a corn-rent?—Yes, I think now about three-fourths.

9657. Have the farmers who hold their farms at money-rents, suffered?—Yes, they suffer much at present, and they complain much.

9658. When were those money-rents fixed?—Not less than 12 years ago. The leases are getting pretty well through in the cases where the tenantry are at present suffering; a lease of 19 years may have four or five years yet to run.

9659. They were fixed under the operation of the old corn law?—Yes, under the expectation that the prices upon wheat would be maintained something like what the corn law proposed.

9660. Of 1815?—Yes, or of 1822.

9661. Has there been any reduction made in those money-rents?—In many cases there have been reductions.

9662. Where a reduction has not been made in proportion to the low price of produce, the farmers are in a very bad state?—Yes, it is only the wealthy men that have been able to keep their farms, where no reductions have been made. In most cases where no reduction was made, they have been compelled to give in.

9663. What is the course of cropping in that soil?—We have a six-course rotation upon land such as I occupy. We begin with fallow, wheat, grass or clover, oats, beans, and wheat.

9664. No turnips?—Nothing worth speaking of; and as many potatoes as serve the farm, but none for sale.

Mr. *Robert Hope.*

19 April 1836.

9665. Mr. *Miles.*] Do you grow those upon the fallows?—No, upon the bean portion.

9666. *Chairman.*] Do you plough with two horses?—Yes.

9667. How deep can you plough with two horses?—From six to nine inches is the common depth.

9668. At what do you value the ploughing per acre?—About 10*s.* for the first ploughing.

9669. How much can you plough in a day at the first ploughing?—About three quarters of a Scotch acre, nearly an English acre a day.

9670. In the subsequent ploughings you can plough a greater quantity of land in a day?—Yes, in the fallowing; through the Spring, in the second and third ploughing, we can do nearly a Scotch acre in a day.

9671. Mr. *Miles.*] Is the soil chiefly clay?—It is not clay, it is a heavy loam.

9672. What do you reckon for the second ploughing?—The second and third ploughing can be done at from 7*s.* to 8*s.*

9673. *Chairman.*] What local charges have you upon your farm; what is your poor-rate?—The poor in the parish that I belong to, are maintained by a voluntary subscription.

9674. Have you any highway duty to perform?—Yes, what we call statute labour money.

9675. What is the amount of that upon your farm?—It is 36*s.* for every 60 Scotch acres, that is 75 English acres.

9676. You have no tithes?—No.

9677. And no other contributions?—No, there are no other that I recollect just now. We have no public burthens to complain of.

9678. In short, you have nothing but rent in addition to the cost of cultivation?—That is the principal thing.

9679. Have you lowered the cost of cultivation at all lately?—Not at all.

9680. Have you employed thrashing mills?—Yes, we have all thrashing mills; every farmer in the county has a thrashing mill.

9681. Are those thrashing mills worked by water, or by horses, or by steam?—They are getting rapidly to be worked by steam; I think there are about 63 or 64 steam engines in the county.

9682. What is the first cost of one of those steam thrashing machines?—A high-pressure engine of six-horse power, such as I have, of the best construction, is 145*l.*

9683. What quantity of corn will it thrash out per day?—We can easily thrash 30 quarters of wheat. I reckon that we can thrash 24 bushels an hour, of wheat, and about 40 bushels of other grain.

9684. What is the consumption of coal per hour, to feed the engine?—A ton for 10 hours.

9685. At what price do you purchase it per ton?—It is at various prices; I can purchase coal at present for the engine at 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* the ton; it is an inferior kind of coal; that is at the coalpit.

9686. What does it cost you at home?—At the most it is not exceeding 8*s.* a ton, valuing the full price of labour for the hire of a cart.

9687. Have you experienced a great saving in consequence of the employment of the thrashing machine?—Yes, we consider it a very great advantage.

9688. How much a quarter do you save by it?—I reckon the expense of thrashing does not exceed 1*s.* a quarter for wheat, and from 8*d* to 9*d.* for other grains; that includes carting the corn and carrying off the straw, and farming the corn to a certain extent.

9689. Does that include all the labour of feeding the engine and watching the engine?—Yes, and coal.

9690. Does it include interest upon the prime cost of the machine?—It would even allow a small per centage upon that.

9691. Have you a statement of the expenditure upon your farm?—I have a statement of the current annual expenses.

9692. Does that include a statement of the manual labour employed upon your farm?—Yes, it includes the wages of the men that are employed in working the thrashing machine, and every kind of labour ordinarily employed.

9693. How many men do you employ upon your farm?—About 17; in the first place we have ten hinds, those are the ordinary farm servants that are hired by the year; and I have three unmarried ploughmen and four labourers

employed at day's wages, those are the men that are regularly employed upon the farm; we have six women and boys, that I reckon are employed three months in the winter; and we have 18 women and boys that are employed about 24 weeks in the year in field labour, weeding and hoeing turnips, if there is anything of that kind, and hoeing beans and potatoes: that is all the expense of labour.

9694. Have the goodness to read the statement you have prepared of the expenses upon your farm.

[*The Witness read the same, as follows:*]

CURRENT ANNUAL EXPENSES on the FARM of *Fanton Barnes.*

	£.	s.	d.
10 hinds, 9 quarters each of oats, at 20 *s.* per quarter	90	–	–
Ditto 2 quarters 2 bushels each of barley, at 28 *s.* per quarter	31	10	–
Ditto 1 quarter each of pease, at 30 *s.* per quarter	15	–	–
Ditto cow's grass, at 5 *l.* each	50	–	–
Three unmarried ploughmen in kitchen, at 20 *l.* each	60	–	–
Foreman, burnman and hedger, 2 *l.* each more than the others	6	–	–
Tolls, and expenses in carting produce of farm to market	15	–	–
House servant and stable boy, at 14 *l.* each	42	–	–
4 labourers, at 9 *s.* per week each, 48 weeks	86	–	–
6 women in winter, 12 weeks, at 4 *s.* 6 *d.* a week each	16	4	–
18 women and boys, 24 weeks, at 4 *s.* 6 *d.* each	97	4	–
Smith 40 *l.*, wright 30 *l.*, and saddler 15 *l.*	85	–	–
Harvest wages on 320 acres, at 15 *s.* per acre	240	–	–
Grass-seeds for 85 acres, at 13 *s.* 4 *d.* per acre	56	12	–
Statute labour and poor's money	20	–	–
Oats for 24 horses, 274 quarters, at 20 *s.* per quarter	274	–	–
Grass to cut and for hay to horses, 30 acres, at 3 *l.* per acre	90	–	–
£.	1,274	10	–

The above items are very similar to what they have been during the last 40 years, although the money value of the grain has varied with the markets; day labourers wages were also about 25 per cent. higher during the latter years of the late war.

9695. Is that 1,260 *l.* for labour alone?—For horses, grass seeds, and labour.

9696. That does not include improvements in draining?—No, nothing extra; it is just every day's expenses for labour alone.

9697. Mr. *Loch.*] Does that include the expenses of keeping your fences in order?—The hedgers' wages are included.

9698. And the scouring the ditches, and so on?—Yes.

9699. Mr. *Cayley.*] In the wages, you include the keep of the farm servants?—Yes; the 20 *l.* includes only the servants who live in the kitchen, the three unmarried ploughmen; all the others have only the wages that have been mentioned; 9 *s.* a week is the money wages for a labourer.

9700. *Chairman.*] What have been the average receipts upon your farm?—I could not speak exactly to that just now.

9701. Can you state what the average per acre is?—Exclusive of seed, I think it may average about 6 *l.* per Scotch acre; that includes the year of fallowing, which yields nothing; that is estimating wheat at 50 *s.* a quarter, barley at 28 *s.* oats at 20 *s.*, and beans at 30 *s.*

9702. Your expenses average about 2 *l.* 12 *s.* an acre?—Yes, as near as may be.

9703. What is the average of your rent, with wheat at 50 *s.*?—Seven bushels, at about 6 *s.* 3 *d.* a bushel, counting it at 50 *s.*; that amounts to about 43 *s.* 9 *d.*

9704. Then 4 *l.* 15 *s.* 9 *d.* per acre will be the average of your expenditure, including rent?—Yes, I think it is.

9705. Has the farm been improving under your management the last five or six years?—For the last four years at least it has been improving decidedly.

9706. Independently of the increased produce, in consequence of the fine seasons, it has been improving?—Yes, from the expenditure for manure brought upon the farm, for rape cake, and for tile draining.

9707. Mr. *Handley.*] In speaking of the expenses that you have given per acre, you do not include manure?—It was merely the current expenses.

9708. *Chairman.*] You consider that the capital which you have laid out in those improvements has paid you a certain rate of interest?—I expect it will.

Mr. *Robert Hope.*

19 April 1836.

9709. Has it paid you?—At present it is paying very well, with the abundant crops we have had the last four years, and the moderate rent in consequence of paying at the price of corn.

9710. Then all the farmers that have been under similar circumstances with yourself, you consider to have been doing well?—Yes, within the last four years.

9711. And your farms have been improved within the last four years?—Yes, they have improved and are improving.

9712. You calculate the price of wheat at 50*s.*, the price of barley at 28*s.* and oats at 20*s.* and you think those may be considered as remunerating prices?—Yes; if we were sure of those prices, I think it would be quite sufficient for every person under a corn-rent to do well.

9713. What are the prices now in Scotland?—About 40*s.* a quarter for wheat; 36*s.* was the average price of wheat the last season.

9714. Mr. *Loch.*] What was the price in Haddington market, when you left it?—Twenty-four shillings a boll of four bushels.

9715. That is 48*s.* a quarter?—Yes, there was very little at that.

9716. *Chairman.*] Where are those averages struck, in Scotland?—They are divulged on the first Thursday in March.

9717. Are your corn-rents regulated by the average struck at that period?—They are regulated entirely by the averages, what we call the Fiars.

9718. How are those averages ascertained?—By the sheriff; he summons about 80 or 90 individuals annually, about the middle of February, to give in to him a statement of the corn of all sorts that they have sold, the quantity and the price, and they assemble at Haddington on the last Friday in February, and depone to the accuracy of the statements they have given in, and from those the sheriff makes up the averages.

9719. Mr. *Loch.*] By "depone," you mean that they give it in upon oath?—They swear to the accuracy of their statement.

9720. *Chairman.*] Does that include the whole year?—It includes the sales made of the crops since harvest.

9721. Are those the sales made in the county or out of the county, or both?—It is restricted entirely to the corn delivered within the county, sold for ready money.

9722. Then if you were to send any corn and sell it in Edinburgh, it is not included in the average?—No.

9723. Are you in the habit of sending corn to Edinburgh?—Occasionally, but not often.

9724. Is there any demand for barley in Edinburgh?—Yes, it is the chief market for our barley.

9725. Does the fine barley fetch a good price there?—It sells very readily; the demand seems to be increasing annually.

9726. To the Edinburgh brewers?—Yes.

9727. Are all those sales of fine barley excluded from the averages, in consequence of being sold at Edinburgh?—If they are delivered at Edinburgh, they are excluded.

9728. Then in fact the average of the barley sales is hardly a fair average?—It does not fairly represent the money produce of the barley.

9729. Then the sheriff receives no information from the buyers of corn to enable him to strike those averages?—Not that I am aware of; I believe it is almost entirely restricted to the sellers, to the farmers. I believe that even the landlords are not included; it is entirely the tenants.

9730. You grow clover, in one of the courses of your crop?—Yes.

9731. Where do you procure your clover chiefly; is it English clover seed or foreign clover seed?—We procure it from seedsmen at Edinburgh or at Haddington; they have it both of foreign growth and of English growth.

9732. Which seed is preferred, the English or the foreign seed?—The English generally fetches a little higher price; it is generally plumper, and looks better to the eye than the foreign seed.

9733. Would you be glad to be relieved from the duty on foreign clover seed?—Yes, we would consider it a boon, if it could be done.

9734. What will be the value of that boon to you?—About 12*l.* or 15*l.* annually to me as an individual; but we consider that it would be beneficial to

remote

remote districts of the country, because we consider that clover is the foundation of good farming.

9735. But you are not in a state of such distress as to require any great boon; you seem to be doing tolerably well?—Yes, we have no occasion to complain; we only think it does not apply to the whole country; if it applied to every individual of the same class, we would have nothing to say.

9736. Mr. *Miles.*] You were understood to say, that in reducing your produce into wages, you take certain prices; are those certain prices upon the average of the last few years?—They are very nearly what they have been for some years past; they are very nearly what they were last winter.

9737. Mr. *Loch.*] Have you ever thought any thing about the present corn laws, whether they are beneficial to the farmer, or not?—Yes, they have been often discussed, but it is a very general feeling among those that pay corn-rents, that they have not been hitherto beneficial, but the very reverse of being beneficial.

9738. What is your reason for that opinion?—It induced men to offer more than has been well realized by the price of corn, because it was generally expected from the corn laws, that prices would be kept up to something like what they promised; that the import of foreign corn would be restricted, and by that means keep up the price of the home growth to 70*s.* or so.

9739. Is it the operation of the law, or some other cause, that has made the price of wheat, so low in your opinion?—I think the law has had nothing to do in bringing down the price of wheat; I think it is the favourable seasons, and the abundant crops.

9740. The favourable season and the abundant crops have affected the price of wheat, not the corn laws?—Yes.

9741. Then how has the corn law disappointed your expectation?—Because it led those that took farms at money-rents, to give a much higher rent than they would have done.

9742. Then they did not calculate upon such favourable seasons?—They did not expect that a series of favourable seasons would ever reduce prices at the rate we have seen the last six months.

9743. Then is it the opinion of you and those other gentlemen that have considered the subject in the way you mention, that the present corn law ought to continue, or do you think that any change would be beneficial to the farmer?—From what we experienced in the year 1831, I am disposed to think that a change might be more beneficial to the farmer, by reducing the scale at which foreign corn is imported.

9744. By reducing the limit?—Yes.

9745. How would that be more favourable to you?—Because prices were run up to the top of the scale in 1829; before any foreign corn could be imported, they were run up so high as 70*s.* a quarter; when we could not grow so much wheat as we paid in rent, and had the price only run up to 60*s.* a quarter, we should just have had so much less money to make up the deficient quantity of wheat.

9746. Then it is as affects corn-rents that your observation applies?—It applies entirely to that.

9747. Mr. *Miles.*] Are you entirely under a corn-rent, or have you some pasture land?—None whatever.

9748. Mr. *Clay.*] Do you think there was a less breadth of wheat sown last autumn?—Yes, it is generally understood that there is less sown; it made no difference with me, but I understand that there is less generally throughout the country.

9749. Have you reason to believe that there is less sown in the neighbourhood with which you are acquainted?—Yes.

9750. To any considerable extent?—Perhaps ten per cent. less than last year.

9751. Are there many farms out of lease in your neighbourhood?—None just now, I believe.

9752. Suppose a farm of fair quality to be out of lease, are there many applicants for it?—Yes; the day before I left, it was known that there were two farms of about 600 acres, which had been advertised, and there were a great many candidates for those farms, belonging to the Earl of Wemys; I understand that there were a great many competitors for the farms, and the offers were given in by a corn-rent, so much wheat; and there was another excellent

Mr. *Robert Hope.*

19 April 1836.

farm the week before. I left a farm of 400 acres belonging to Mr. Ainslie, and there were a great many candidates for that farm; it was a money-rent before, and it was let for wheat, just the week before I left home.

9753. Were they let by auction?—No, by tender.

9754. Would they be let at the lowest tender, or is there any reserved price?—There is no reserved price; the highest offer, provided the offerer was unexceptionable, would have a fair chance to be preferred.

9755. Did this land let at a higher or a lower rent than before?—It was let at a corn-rent, and it was a money-rent before.

9756. Do you think the corn-rent was equivalent to the money-rent?—It is deemed equivalent, I believe.

9757. Looking at the progress of the decline of prices the last few years, do you think the corn-rent is equivalent to the former money-rent?—No; it was let at nearly seven bushels the Scotch acre; now if that was taken at 5*s.* or 6*s.* a bushel, it would hardly be up to what it was before; it was reckoned a moderate money-rented farm.

9758. What was it before?—Something about two guineas.

9759. Six shillings and sixpence or 7*s.* a bushel would be exactly two guineas?—Yes; but with that exception, every other farm that has been let in our neighbourhood at a corn-rent, has been let at about a bushel of wheat for 10*s.* of money that it paid when it was let at a money-rent.

9760. That is, compared with the rent about 20 years ago?—Yes.

9761. The rent just at the close of the war?—Yes.

9762. Have you any means of making a comparison between the present rents of the lands in your neighbourhood, and the rents preceding the war; in the year 1790, for instance?—I know that the rent that I pay now, this current year's rent, is within 10*l.* of what my father paid for the farm when it was let in the year 1793.

9763. Was it then at a money-rent?—It was then at a money-rent of 810*l.* in 1793.

9764. And now paying, as you pay, a proportion of produce, it amounts to about the same sum?—Eight hundred twenty-three pounds two shillings sixpence is the rent this year; one-half of it was paid last month.

9765. Mr. *Sanford.*] Is the land of which you are speaking, very much above the average of the arable land of the kingdom?—It is something like the average arable land of the county of Haddington.

9766. But the arable land of East Lothian is generally considered above the average land of either Scotland or England?—It certainly is above the average arable land of Scotland; I am not sufficiently acquainted with England to speak to that question.

9767. You have stated that the existing corn law you consider is prejudicial to the farmer; is your opinion founded upon the circumstance of there having been a miscalculation as to the effects to be produced by the corn laws, or upon the working of the corn laws themselves?—I think by the present working of the corn laws that it may run prices too high for the interest of the farmers in years of scarcity; before any foreign corn can be admitted into the country, prices may be run up so high as to be prejudicial to the interest of the farmer; because in such a year as we had in 1831, we could not grow so much wheat as we had to pay in rent.

9768. That applies to those farmers that are now renting under a corn-rent?—It applies to those farmers, and those farmers only, that have a corn-rent.

9769. But the general working of the corn laws, with respect to those who are holding at a fixed rent, it would not apply to?—No; it would not apply to those, certainly.

9770. Mr. *Clay.*] If the result of this corn law should be to produce great fluctuations in price, you would think that effect would apply to all farmers?—I think it has been prejudicial to those that even pay a money-rent, because I am sure that if it had not been for the corn law, they would not have given so high a money-rent.

9771. Mr. *Sanford.*] That proceeded from a miscalculation, upon their part, as to the effect to be produced by the corn law?—It was merely a miscalculation.

9772. Mr. *Miles.*] And it applies principally to those tenants that took their leases previously to 1818?—In 1814, I took a new lease for 21 years, of the farm that I at present occupy, and have agreed to pay 1,710*l.* for it, under the expectation

expectation that prices would be kept up something near to 80*s.* a quarter; but we soon found that we were under a delusion about it, and the proprietor then saw also that it was a delusion, and he converted the rent into corn.

9773. And your observation, relative to the prejudicial effect of the corn law, relates chiefly to leases entered into about that time?—Yes.

9774. Mr. *Clive.*] Would you prefer having a fixed duty?—No, I would prefer lowering the scale; because a fixed duty, that would be a protection with abundant crops, I believe would not be tolerated in a scarcity.

9775. Mr. *Heathcote.*] By lowering the scale of the corn law, if you still were held to your leases, you would be worse off than at present?—All that the corn laws can do just now is to raise up prices when there is a deficiency of crop, and that is no advantage to us.

9776. Do your observations apply to persons that farm their own land?—They have not the same application to them.

9777. Mr. *Evans.*] If you lowered the duties, should not you be afraid of meeting the foreign corn in competition?—In case of scarcity we should meet it sooner; that is what we wish.

9778. *Chairman.*]—Is it your opinion that the present corn laws do or do not cause fluctuations in the price?—I think that they allow the fluctuation to be much greater than the fluctuation would be if the scale were lowered; I conceive that they hold up an expectation of a price that can only be attained in years of scarcity.

9779. Mr. *Sanford.*]—Then you do not disapprove of the existing system of corn laws, but only the scale upon which the present corn law is fixed?—Precisely; I think the system is good.

9780. But you think the present scale is erroneous?—Yes.

9781. Mr. *Cayley.*] Were you rightly understood to say that your landlord was to allow you 100*l.* a year henceforward, for money you had laid out in draining?—To be laid out for three years; I entered upon a new lease last year.

9782. If he had not allowed you this 100*l.* a year to be laid out in draining, you would have required some reduction in your rent?—I should have had a harder bargain.

9783. You have been a farmer a long time, from 1801; you were making a good deal of money from 1801 to 1814, were not you?—Not so much as the rise in the value of land indicated.

9784. Suppose your capital to have been 3,000*l.* how much would that capital have been increased from 3,000*l.* from 1801 to 1814?—I could not answer that correctly, because it was a family concern in some degree; my private interest was connected with the family interest.

9785. Can you speak as to the account of the farm without separating it into individual portions; how much did the farm make in that time?—I could not answer that.

9786. Taking the period from 1820 to 1834, another 14 years, how much do you think your farm capital would have increased in that time?—We lost a great deal in 1820; I was then upon a money-rent of 1,710*l.*; and it was because the proprietor found that it could not be paid, that it was converted into a corn-rent in the middle of the lease, when the prices fell in 1822 as they did to 40*s.* a quarter.

9787. If you had started farming in 1820 with 3,000*l.* capital, how much more than 3,000*l.* would you have had at present, do you think?—I believe that every one that started farming in 1820 with 3,000*l.* capital at money-rent, as it was generally paid then, is hardly solvent at the present day.

9788. The rents in England are generally money-rents; and therefore your idea of the state of husbandry in England is, that those who had 3,000*l.* capital upon their farm 14 years ago, have none at all now?—If the rent was comparatively as high in England in 1820 as it was in Scotland, and if they took at that high rent, it is not likely that they can have much.

9789. Can you give a debtor and creditor account of your farm, for a number of years back?—No, I cannot give that at present.

9790. Do not you keep books?—Yes.

9791. Could not you give in to the Committee an account of all your outgoings and all your incomings for the last five or ten years?—No, I could not do that; but at any rate it is out of the question, I am so far from home.

 9792. Perhaps

Mr. *Robert Hope.*

19 April 1836.

9792. Perhaps you are afraid of showing your landlord how prosperous you are?—Not in the least; we have no reason to be afraid of that.

9793. You stated that your expenses upon an acre are about 2*l.* 12*s.* and your rent about 2*l.* 3*s.* making together about 4*l.* 15*s.*; you stated that the incomings upon an acre are about 6*l.*; that will leave you per acre 1*l.* 5*s.* a year; you are in a prosperous condition, surely, if you are receiving on the whole of your farm 687*l.* a year?—Yes, but that is upon the supposition that we grow the crops I have mentioned, which have been grown the last three or four years.

9794. Do not you receive a less price in consequence of those fuller crops?—Yes, but we pay so much less rent.

9795. You stated the price to be 50*s.*; have you been receiving 50*s.* a quarter, for the last three years, for your wheat?—I think it has been about 2*l.* 5*s.*

9796. But the last year it was 36*s.*?—Yes.

9797. Supposing the price was to remain about 40*s.* a quarter upon an average of years, what would be your condition then?—I think, with good crops, we might make a fair shift.

9798. With average crops?—With average crops.

9799. You say that in the last three years you have got 657 quarters upon your wheat land, and 384 in the four years previous; were the four years previous, average seasons?—Not at all, they were very far inferior to that.

9800. Then the 657 is not all to be attributed to good crops, but the 384 is to be attributed in a great degree to bad crops?—To a series of very unfavourable seasons.

9801. How much less did you grow during those seasons?—Very ittle more than half of what we have done within the last three years.

9802. Did they grow more than half an average crop during those wet seasons?—Yes, they grew more than half an average crop, because they were rather more than half of the last four, which are above an average.

9803. Taking the last four together, were they much above an average?—They have been fully above an average.

9804. In what proportion above an average?—Not much; but I would say above an average.

9805. Your Spring crops upon that sort of land have been pretty good; are you acquainted at all with the upland soils?—There is little difference with our district of country, it is all much upon the same climate.

9806. Are you acquainted with any district of country where there is an upland arable district?—It can hardly be designated that in our county.

9807. Do you know any thing of the crops upon limestone land, or chalky land, or gravelly land?—No, we have no chalk in Scotland.

9808. Were your Spring crops good in consequence of a dry Spring?—The favourable seasons altogether.

9809. The dry Spring would be favourable to working the stiff land?—It was favourable to putting in the seed.

9810. Would a dry Spring be favourable to a limestone district, for barley and oats?—Yes, it would be favourable to the seed putting in; in fact, there is a portion of the county upon limestone, and it is a thin clay that is easily hurt with wet, and therefore a dry season is favourable to that kind of soil.

9811. If the limestone is near a rock, will not a dry Spring prevent it from growing?—It is a heavy soil upon a limestone rock.

9812. Are the lands in East Lothian as well cultivated now as they were twenty or thirty years ago?—Yes, they are as well cultivated as ever they were.

9813. Are they better cultivated?—Better than they were four years ago, because we had five years ago a series of very unfavourable seasons.

9814. Taking the period before that, do you perceive any improvement in the husbandry of the Lothians within the last twenty years?—A vast improvement within the last thirty years; a great part of the heavy land in the county was limed; now that was an immense improvement, and it was an expensive improvement.

9815. If the cultivation has very much improved within the last twenty years, how did it happen that your father was able to pay the same rent within 10*l.* that you now pay?—The expenditure was more moderate at that period; there were fewer labourers kept upon the farm.

9816. But you state your rent is within 10 per cent of your father's?—That is only for the present year, at the present value of corn.

9817. At what price do you calculate your wheat in the present year?—Thirty-six shillings a quarter.

9818. When you gave in an account of the incomings of your farm, you calculated it at 50*s.* for wheat?—Yes; I said that if wheat was 50*s.* so and so would be the case.

9819. Then the incomings you have stated to the Committee are not actual incomings, but merely hypothetical?—Yes.

9820. Can you state what are all the costs of cultivation, and what the incomings are to meet those costs, taking the whole course through, upon an acre?—Yes, I can do that.

9821. Is there more wheat grown in Scotland now than there was twenty years ago?—Yes, a great increase in the culture of wheat within the last thirty years.

9822. When did the increase begin?—The quantity was increasing within the last ten years; I think there is not much difference in point of quantity in the Lothians in the last ten years.

9823. Are you acquainted with any English farms, or the expenses of English farming?—No, I have no personal knowledge of any thing about England.

9824. Do you keep any sheep upon your farm?—Yes.

9825. How many?—About 200.

9826. In those three or four years that you have described as being so bad and so adverse for wheat, did you lose any of your sheep?—Nothing to speak of; we are not acquainted with the rot in my situation.

9827. Have sheep borne a pretty good price the last few years?—Yes, they are very much up just now, to what they were six months ago; in the Autumn, sheep were very cheap, at least they were sold at a very moderate price, and in the Spring they are considerably up.

9828. Are those fat or lean?—Both.

9829. Are you aware that the rot took place very extensively in England four or five years ago?—Yes, we heard of that.

9830. Do you think that that tended to improve the condition of the Scotch farmers?—Not in my situation.

9831. If you did not lose any of your sheep by the rot, and the price of sheep rose in consequence of the scarcity, would not that benefit you?—What we sold, we had bought the same year, and we paid a higher price in consequence of the demand from England; we paid a higher price for our stock that we bought in every Autumn.

9832. Do you grow white, or red wheat?—Partly both, but chiefly white.

9833. When you spoke of wheat selling at 48*s.* in the Haddington market, do you speak of white wheat?—It is the average of wheat; ten days ago the best red wheat, I think, did not exceed 42*s.* or 43*s.* a quarter.

9834. Is there more red or white wheat grown in Haddingtonshire?—A great deal more white wheat.

9835. If you think 50*s.* a quarter for wheat is a fair price for Scotland, what should you think, taking the additional expenses of English farms into consideration, would be a fair price for an English farm?—I am not acquainted with the difference between England and Scotland so far as to say there should be any difference of price.

9836. But if the English farmer has much greater expenses, he would require a higher price?—Of course.

9837. How far from Edinburgh are you?—About 20 miles.

9838. Do you think it is an advantage to you, being so near Edinburgh, in your farm?—It affords a consumption for our wheat, and for our meat, which also goes to Edinburgh chiefly.

9839. If you were 40 miles from Edinburgh instead of 20, do you think you would do as well with your farm?—I have seen a great deal of our wheat come to the London market, and even the butcher's meat is coming at present to the London market.

9840. Is that in consequence of the high price of meat?—Yes.

9841. You have said that the cause of the fall in price has been the good seasons; do you remember any fall in price taking place before the last three or four years?—I remember the fall that took place in 1822, there was a series of good seasons then, and there had been a great importation of foreign wheat, if I remember right.

Mr. *Robert Hope.*

19 April 1836.

9842. When did the importation take place, then?—1819, I think; I think there was no importation after 1819 till 1823.

9843. Was that wheat let into the market in 1820, 1821 and 1822?—It was said that part of it hung upon the market even up to 1822 and 1823, but it was let in in 1819, I think.

9844. Do you speak from memory, when you say that those seasons were particularly good seasons, in 1820, 1821 and 1822?—I am speaking entirely from memory.

9845. Did you ever think of any other cause in the fall in price at that time?—No, nothing further than I thought it was the abundant crops then, and a great import.

9846. When you see a fall in price, you take for granted that there must either be a great import or a good season?—A good season is the principal cause.

9847. Do you remember the fall in price in 1815 and 1816?—Yes, in 1815.

9848. Were they good seasons then?—Yes, 1814 and 1815 were favourable seasons; 1816 and 1817 were very unfavourable seasons.

9849. You remember that the prices were very high during the war?—Yes.

9850. Were they very bad seasons during the war?—No, only occasionally bad seasons.

9851. What made the prices so high during the war?—It appeared to me that there were different causes.

9852. What in your opinion were the causes?—I think there was an alteration in the currency, to which we generally attributed part of the rise in prices, when the Bank restriction Act of 1797 came into effect; but the great government expenditure, when they spent two years income in one year, appeared to us one great cause of the rapid rise in prices.

9853. Did any change in the currency take place after the war?—Yes, we understood that we reverted again to the ancient standard.

9854. If the change before the war, or during the war, raised the prices, would the change back again cause any fall in the prices, do you think?—I think it would.

9855. Did the farmers in Scotland attribute any of their distress in 1820, 1821 and 1822, to the change that took place in 1819?—They thought that the change that took place then might have a partial effect.

9856. You attribute your distress chiefly to good seasons?—Yes, to good seasons.

9857. They were distressed also in 1820, 1821 and 1822?—Because they were all upon very high rents.

9858. Is it your opinion that a good season is generally disadvantageous to the farmer?—No, quite the reverse, if his rent is properly adjusted with regard to prices.

9859. But whatever his rent may be, will not the fall in price be compensated by an increase in the quantity?—Not always.

9860. Are you acquainted with a good number of farmers who pay money-rents?—Yes, I know a few.

9861. When they see the prospect of a good season, do they grumble or expect any great calamity to befall them in consequence?—They are not very certain what the effects of it may now be.

9862. Is it the general opinion of farmers, when they see a probability of a good season, that it will be a calamity to them, or a benefit?—Those that pay money-rents are certain that a good season brings an abundant crop, and an abundant crop at a low price is against them; they feel that, and are aware of it.

9863. You stated that the corn laws, you think, had done an injury to the farmers; do you think the injury has been because it deceived them when they were first made in 1815?—Yes.

9864. The farmers were led to expect that the price of 80*s.* would be preserved in consequence of the corn laws?—Yes.

9865. And the landlords expected the same thing?—They did.

9866. And they were deceived?—Yes.

9867. Something must have been at work to produce a fall in price, of which they were not aware?—Of course there must have been something that operated, that they had not taken into calculation.

9868. Have you any one-pound notes in Scotland?—Yes.

9869. Would you like them to be taken away from you?—No; I do not think it would be advantageous to Scotland to take them away.

9870. Are they advantageous to you?—They are more convenient than gold, and they are cheaper to those that issue them, I believe.

9871. Do you think they would do any mischief to English farmers?—I rather apprehend that it would be attended with danger to introduce them into England.

9872. Will you give the reason why they are good for Scotland and would be bad for England?—Because England is much more extensive, and its far greater wealth is a complete check to any excess of issues in Scotland.

9873. In Scotland, when you have a good thing, you like to keep it?—If there were any great extent of speculation to take place in Scotland, in wheat for instance, if a spirit were to get abroad in that respect, the people of England would soon convince them that there was a difference between the paper price and the gold price, because they would immediately send down their wheat; and they have done that.

9874. In Scotland, is it a common thing to go to the bank for a sovereign in exchange for a one-pound note?—It is very uncommon.

9875. They have confidence in their bankers, and there is no danger in Scotland in that kind of currency?—No danger, I believe.

9876. In the land you cultivate, can you state what is the produce per acre; how many bushels per acre of wheat, barley, and oats?—My wheat crop last year, upon a Scotch acre, was 34 or 35 bushels.

9877. What is the average?—Thirty-six bushels of wheat we reckon an average crop upon a Scotch acre.

9878. And of barley?—About 48 bushels of barley.

9879. And of oats?—Sixty bushels of oats.

9880. Mr. *Clive.*] You have been giving an account of the six-course system which you pursue in your mode of cultivation; what are the quantities in each description you have given, namely, of fallow, of wheat, of seeds, of oats, and of beans; will you state the relative quantities annually, as they arise, first of all, how many acres of fallow?—About 85 Scotch acres.

9881. How much of wheat?—We have a portion of turnips and a portion of barley.

9882. Will you state how the farm is divided?—It is in the six-course shift; what I state to be the fallow, the sixth part of it may be turnips, and the turnips are succeeded by barley; that lessens the quantity of wheat, or else I should have 160 Scotch acres of wheat.

9883. Cannot you state the general division that takes place upon your farm?—I follow the six-course cropping; fallow, wheat, and grass, oats, beans, and peas; but on part of the fallow the crop may be turnips, which is succeeded by barley; a portion of the bean crop may be potatoes, which are succeeded by wheat.

9884. Then with those exceptions, all this land comes round in the course of six years?—Yes; there is sometimes a small field kept in grass for a couple of years.

9885. Mr. *Baring.*] Do you know what rent your father paid an acre in 1793?—A guinea and a half in 1793.

9886. Since that time the land has been deep drained?—Yes.

9887. Can you state how much an acre that cost?—No, it is impossible, because some acres did not require deep draining at all; and other acres cost several pounds; it was chiefly for springs and bursts of water that the land was drained at that time.

9888. Do you know what it cost upon the whole farm?—No; I believe that the way we are draining now, in furrow-draining, costs about 4*l.* to 5*l.* an acre.

9889. The farm has been also improved by liming; what did that cost an acre?—About 9*l.* an acre, carriage included.

9890. Was the whole farm done with lime?—Almost the whole farm was done with lime.

9891. Mr. *Loch.*] At your expense?—Yes; that exhausted my capital.

9892. Mr. *Baring.*] But the farm was let upon an improving lease?—Yes; I was anxious to improve it to the utmost, with a view to meet the high money-rent.

Mr. *Robert Hope.*

19 April 1836.

9893. *Chairman.*] Was the farm let for a smaller sum, on condition that you should improve it, by laying out so much money in liming?—No.

9894. Was the liming altogether voluntary on your part?—Altogether voluntary.

9895. Have any other improvements been made on your farm?—The liming was most expensive, and draining was the next in extent.

9896. Was it inclosed when you took it?—It was all inclosed, and most of it was inclosed during the lease, beginning in 1793.

9897. And it was under that lease that your father paid a guinea and a half per acre?—Yes.

9898. Are your farm buildings more expensive now than they were then?—The farm offices have been rebuilt almost entirely.

9899. Upon a larger scale?—Yes, upon a better scale.

9900. In how far do you suppose that the farm buildings at present are more expensive than the farm buildings were in 1793?—Previous to 1793, the farm offices in Scotland were in a very shabby poor state, generally speaking; it was only at about that period that they began to pay more attention to the building of the farm-houses.

9901. Do you suppose that the farm buildings that exist are twice as costly now as they were in 1793?—The buildings that existed in 1793 appeared to have been built perhaps a hundred years before that, and they were very different from what they are now; the landlord has expended about 800*l.* upon the different offices that I have, within the last four or five years.

9902. Mr. *Loch.*] How much money have you expended altogether in furrow-draining, within the last three or four years; you say that it cost from 4*l.* to 5*l.* an acre; how many acres have you done?—I have only been engaged furrow-draining two years; my lease only commenced recently, and I have laid out about 120*l.* in each of the last two years.

9903. And you expect a return in the additional produce of the land?—Yes, naturally.

9904. Would you have laid this out if you had had no lease?—No, it could not have been expected

9905. How long is your lease for?—Twenty-one years.

9906. What was the rent that you paid, previous to the present rent, in 1834? One thousand three hundred and sixty-five pounds was the average rent that I paid for the four years ending in 1831, and the average of the three years succeeding that, was 1,020*l.*

9907. You mentioned, that you made use of rape-cake as manure; what does that cost you an acre?—It costs about 5*l.* a ton, and we lay on from half a ton to a ton an acre; last year and this year I have expended 300*l.* upon rape-cake alone.

9908. Have you purchased any manure besides?—Nothing to speak of.

9909. Have you purchased any lime since your new lease began?—Yes.

9910. How much?—About 38*l.* a few months ago.

9911. Then, since your new lease commenced, you have expended upon draining 240*l.* upon extra manure in rape-cake 300*l.* and 40*l.* upon lime?—Yes.

9912. How long does the effect of lime last?—We reckon that when land has been once thoroughly limed, it never again reverts to the same appearance; that is the general opinion, and, so far as my observation has gone, that is the case.

9913. What do you reckon thoroughly limed?—We apply 60 bolls of six bushels a boll, that was 360 bushels, to the Scotch acre.

9914. What does it cost you a boll?—Two shillings a boll.

9915. Did you expend yourself the whole of the money that was laid out in the purchase of lime, or did the landlord assist you?—I paid the whole of it myself.

9916. Earl of *Lincoln.*] How many times during your course do you manure?—Twice.

9917. On which course?—The fallow and the beans.

9918. When do you put the rape-cake?—Upon the fallow; if there is any portion of the fallow turnips, it is applied to the turnips.

9919. Mr. *Cayley.*] You state that you have been draining for the last twenty years; have you drained your whole farm?—The whole farm was drained with what we used to call deep-draining during the last lease, which terminated lately; it began

began in 1814; as soon as we began that lease, we did every thing we could to drain our land according to the best plan then adopted.

9920. Taking both periods upon the whole farm, how much has been laid out upon the farm in draining, the last twenty years?—I could not answer that.

9921. Has there been 4*l.* an acre laid out upon it?—No.

9922. Has there been 3*l.* an acre?—I could not speak with any certainty to the mode of draining that we adopted during the last lease, because in some fields it required but little, and in others a good deal; now we have gone over the whole of it, and every acre that we have done, the last two years, cost upwards of 4*l.* an acre.

9923. Do you consider now that the whole farm has been properly drained?—It was all deep-drained; but I have only been engaged for two years in furrow-draining.

9924. You are still going on?—Yes.

9925. You cannot give any estimate as to the entire quantity of capital that has been laid out upon the farm?—I could not at present.

9926. According to the corn-rents, if there is any fall in prices, it does not fall upon the tenant, but upon the landlord?—It falls chiefly upon the landlord.

9927. Supposing you had laid out twenty years ago 2,000 *l.* or 5,000*l.* in land, your rents would now be very much reduced?—Very much.

9928. And the interest upon your money would be very much reduced?—Of course.

9929. Then although you, as a tenant under the system of corn-rents, do not suffer much by the fall in price, the landlord has suffered very much?—The landlord's income is certainly very much reduced in such years as we have now.

9930. If the poor-rate upon land was 5*s.* an acre, and the tithes 5*s.* an acre, do you think you would be receiving much profit at present?—It would be very little profit if I was paying 10*s.* an acre in addition to other expenses.

9931. Mr. *Loch.*] But you would pay less rent if you paid poor-rate and other outgoings?—Undoubtedly; the contract would be for a less amount of corn.

9932. Mr. *Cayley.*] Taking the whole of the farmers of Lothian, do you think they are possessed of as much capital as they were twenty years ago?—No, the tenantry of the county have been very greatly changed since the conclusion of the war; there was a complete change in their circumstances; from being generally in comfortable circumstances, the great majority of them were soon reduced to little better than a state of bankruptcy, with the high money-rents they had contracted.

9933. Was it the habit of Scotland to have sudden changes of tenantry in previous times?—Not in my day.

9934. A farm generally continued from father to son?—Not exactly; but when they left one farm, they got another, if they were in decent circumstances.

9935. You say that you pay your wages and your rent now in produce; but you do not pay your blacksmith's bill and your carpenter's bill in produce?—No, that is all in cash.

9936. Have they reduced their prices in proportion to the fall in the price of produce?—No, the blacksmith and the carpenter have not; but a considerable portion of their charge is for the article that they work in, and their bill is of course influenced by that circumstance; saddlers have reduced at least 20 per cent.; those are the three tradesmen's bills that we pay chiefly.

9937. Mr. *Evans.*] Do you make up your harvest by day's labour or by task-work?—Almost invariably by day's labour.

9938. Have you enough men upon your farm to supply labourers sufficient during the harvest season?—No, there are a great many strangers come into the district.

9939. Where do they come from?—From Ireland.

9940. Any from the Highlands?—There are part of them from the Highlands, and from Edinburgh and the large towns; and from Glasgow they find their way.

9941. You could not well do without those additional hands from Ireland, to get in your harvest?—No, we could not do without the strangers.

9942. You mentioned that you used coal for your thrashing machines, for the steam engines; do you consider that peat could be used instead?—I am not very sure.

9943. There is no peat in your neighbourhood?—No.

Mr. *Robert Hope.*

19 April 1836.

9944. In making up your hay, do you mix salt with it?—Never.

9945. You have no experience in that?—I have known it tried as an experiment, but it did not seem to do any good, as far as I heard.

9946. Earl of *Lincoln.*] Do you get in your harvest with the scythe or the sickle?—Almost invariably with a hook, a smooth hook; we had the sickle twenty years ago, but that has been completely superseded by a large hook.

9947. Is that the case both with wheat and with oats?—All kinds of grain.

9948. You never use the scythe at all?—Very seldom.

9949. In your experience of agriculture in Scotland, do you know it used?—I had a farm of light land, and when I had it in culture I used to employ the scythe to cut the crops there, because it is a soft sandy soil, and the surface was smooth; and there was a softness generally in the straw, the produce of that soil, that answered with the scythe; but I found it utterly inapplicable upon the clay lands.

9950. Do not you think you could get in a harvest of oats at two-thirds the price with the scythe, that you can with the sickle?—No, we do not think that we could; we have tried it again and again, but whether it is from want of experience or that it cannot be done, we have not found it advisable hitherto.

9951. Mr. *Miles.*] Is not there a great shedding of corn from the use of the scythe, which there is not with the hook?—There is very little difference, as far as my experience, provided it is not too ripe.

9952. Mr. *Heathcote.*] Is the furrow draining with stone?—No, chiefly by tiles.

9953. Do you ever use the instrument called a mole-plough, in that part of the country?—No, it is never used, so far as I know.

9954. Mr. *B. Baring.*] Do you use the Flemish scythe in cutting your wheat?—No, a smooth hook.

9955. That is superior to the sickle?—Yes, it is much larger; they can do the work much easier, and more of it, than with the sickle. The sickle was in general use twenty-five years ago, and the hook has superseded it completely, because we find that three labourers with the one are fully equal to four with the other.

9956. Mr. *Sanford.*] Are your stubbles cut close to the ground, or are they cut at a foot or eighteen inches from the ground?—We wish to cut them as low as possible; they are far below eighteen inches, perhaps from six to eight inches.

9957. Do you afterwards mow your stubbles?—No, they are cut so much lower that they will not cut again.

Mr. *Andrew Howden*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *A. Howden.*

9958. *Chairman.*] WHERE do you reside?—At Lawhead, in East Lothian.

9959. Do you occupy a large farm?—About 500 Scotch acres, 625 English.

9960. Do you rent it, or is it you own property?—I rent one farm from the Earl of Haddington, and the other from Miss Dalrymple, of Hailes.

9961. What is the nature of the soil?—The nature of the Lawhead farm, which I hold of Lord Haddington, is a turnip soil.

9962. What is the extent of that?—Two hundred Scotch acres.

9963. What is the other?—Partly turnip soil and partly clay soil.

9964. Is yours a corn-rent or a money-rent?—A corn-rent now.

9965. Has your farm been improved by drainage within the last four or five years?—I commenced farming in 1792; I had then three years of a lease to run, which had been taken by my father; I took a lease then of 21 years, and then I drained, and in consequence of that it is only now that I am furrow-draining the clay land.

9966. Your first draining was not furrow-draining?—No.

9967. Your deep draining is to take off the spring water, and the furrow-draining is to take off the rain water?—Yes.

9968. Was this draining done entirely at your own expense?—Entirely at my own expense in the outset.

9969. Have you ever been allowed any thing from your landlord, for drainage?—No; I am in expectation of it.

9970. Has it paid you a fair interest for your money?—I think it has; the

farm

farm was in a state of nature when I entered, and I improved it very much by draining.

9971. Mr. *Loch.*] Was it enclosed?—Almost all enclosed; but now by another agreement, I have the assistance of the proprietor in enclosing the remainder with stone fences.

9972. *Chairman.*] What is the state of the tenantry in East Lothian, within your knowledge?—Better than it was.

9973. When did the improvement take place?—I think within three or four years.

9974. Is that in consequence of the fine seasons?—Mainly, I apprehend, and also in consequence of the conversion of money-rent into corn-rent.

9975. You consider that to be a great advantage to the farmer?—The greatest of any.

9976. In these corn-rents is there any maximum, or do they rise to the full price of corn?—I had a maximum with the Earl of Haddington, when he converted it into bolls; our boll is four bushels; the maximum at that time with Lord Haddington was 44*s.* a boll, and it is now 35*s.* that is 70*s.* a quarter.

9977. Is there any minimum?—No minimum with me now; but with Miss Dalrymple I had a minimum of 28*s.* a boll, or 56*s.* a quarter; now that lease is run out, and I have made another agreement, in which I have a maximum price of 70*s.*, and no minimum.

9978. Should you say that the cultivation of the farms generally in that part of East Lothian has improved?—I think considerably.

9979. And all at the expense of the tenantry?—No, I think that three years back the bulk of the tenant's capital was swept away; and now we have been assisted by the proprietors, and they are nominally keeping up the rent, while they are contributing to the improvement of the lands, assisting the farmers by giving an allowance for tile-draining and other purposes.

9980. Do you pay your labourers in kind?—All our horsemen in kind.

9981. But not the day labourers?—In some cases they are paid in kind, but my day labourers are paid in money wages.

9982. Have you any statement of the cost of cultivation upon your farm?—I have made an attempt at it, for the last three years.

9983. Have the goodness to read it.

[*The Witness read the same, as follows:*]

NOTE of RENT and EXPENSES on the FARMS of *Lawhead* and *Truprain*, for the Years 1832–1833–1834.

	Qrs. Bus.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Rent for 3 years,	1395 6 of Wheat, at	2	8	4	3,373	1	3
Seed Wheat	for 423 acres, at	1	4	2	511	2	6
Seed Barley	for 27 ditto at	–	14	1½	19	–	4
Seed Oats	for 300 ditto at	–	10	–	150	–	–
Seed Beans	for 150 ditto at	–	13	9	103	2	6
Seed Potatoes	for 15 ditto at	2	–	–	30	–	–
Seed Turnips	for 225 ditto at	–	2	3	25	6	3
Seed Clover and Rye Grass	300 ditto at	–	13	6	202	10	–
Finding and upholding	10 pairs Horses	750	–	–	2,250	–	–
Farm Overseer		30	–	–	90	–	–
Shepherds, Cattle-keepers and Labourers		125	–	–	375	–	–
Women-workers,	20 employed for 150 days each year, at 9*d.*	112	10	–	337	10	–
Manure		150	–	–	450	–	–
Riding Horse		20	–	–	60	–	–
Killing Moles		4	–	–	12	–	–
Upholding Roofs		4	–	–	12	–	–
Taxes		8	18	–	26	14	–
Road Money and Poors Rates		20	–	–	60	–	–
Insurance		6	–	–	18	–	–
Harvesting	900 acres	–	15	–	675	–	–
Dairy Maid and Boy		28	–	–	74	–	–
		£.			8,854	6	10

9984. How much is that upon an average per acre?—I should apprehend for the last three years that the rent and manure is nearly about the same amount as the expense of labour, which is somewhere between 50*s.* and 55*s.* with me.

 9985. Have

Mr. *A. Howden.*

19 April 1836.

9985. Have you a statement of the gross produce?—Yes; I am not sure that it is quite correct, as I am not a good book-keeper, and living at a distance as I do from one of the farms, it depends more upon the overseer than upon myself.

9986. Have the goodness to read it.

[*The Witness read the same, as follows:*]

PRODUCE of the FARMS of *Lawhead* and *Truprain*, in the years 1832, 1833 and 1834, estimated by the East Lothian Fiars Average for these years, and the Turnips and Grass at the Rents of the district.

	Qrs.	Bus.		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Wheat	1948	3, at average Fiars	-	2	8	4	4,708	11	5½
Barley	162	- -	-	1	8	3	195	7	–
Oats	1696	5 -	-	1	–	–	1,696	12	6
Beans	522	- -	-	1	7	6	667	15	–
Turnips and Potatoes, 240 acres			-	6	–	–	1,440	–	–
Grass		300 ditto	-	3	–	–	900	–	–
						£.	9,608	5	11½
Amount of Expenses			-				8,854	6	10
Balance			-			£.	753	19	1½

9987. That leaves the farmer a balance of 753*l.* for the three years?—Yes.

9988. Do you consider that a sufficient profit?—I should like to have a little more profit.

9989. How many bushels an acre is your rent set at?—The rent I have paid is seven bushels per acre, and I think my money-rent was about 9*s.* 6*d.* for every bushel of grain that I paid.

9990. What does your poor-rate amount to?—In our parish we have no poor-rate, except a voluntary assessment of 6*d.* every Sunday; in the other parish, we only pay 6*l.* a year.

9991. Are your poor well off?—Very comfortable.

9992. Have you any poor unemployed?—The proprietor, the Earl of Haddington, is a very benevolent person, and he takes the burthen off the parish, which leaves us only 6*d.* a week to pay. The clergyman says that that is necessary, and we contribute it regularly; but in the other parish there is a regular assessment, and that assessment has risen, since I went there, about double, that has risen from 3*l.* to 6*l.*; the assessment last year was altogether 160*l.* with a population of 800 people.

9993. What does the statute labour amount to?—Two pounds a plough, and I am rated for seven ploughs.

9994. Are there any other local charges upon your farm?—No.

9995. *Chairman.*] One of the items of your expenditure is, upholding roofs?—Our roofs are covered with tile, and I contract with a person to uphold my roofs for 4*l.* a year.

9996. What course of cropping do you pursue upon this land?—Upon the farm of Lawhead a four-course shift, turnips and then wheat, as much sown in Autumn as I can, but what I cannot accomplish in Autumn is sown in Spring, then grass and oats, and then turnips again.

9997. No barley?—A little barley, but I prefer to grow wheat, but I have less wheat this year than usual.

9998. Upon the other land?—Upon the other land we observe a six-course shift; turnip or fallow, wheat, grass, oats, beans, and wheat again.

9999. Mr. *Loch.*] Is that grass one or two years?—One year; but now I propose to change the system, and to throw it into a seven years course, and to make it grass two years.

10000. Will that be less expensive?—I think it will; the proportion which animal food bears to corn, at present, holds out an inducement to make the change; besides I wish to improve the farm, having a lease for 19 years.

10001. *Chairman.*] Has there been less wheat sown this year than last?—I think considerably less.

10002. What crop has been substituted for wheat?—Barley chiefly.

10003. Is

10003. Is that in consequence of the low price of wheat?—I think the season was adverse for sowing it in the Autumn, and if it was so in East Lothian, where we have a dry climate, I think over Scotland generally it must have been more so.

10004. Is the wheat sown in East Lothian sent chiefly to Edinburgh, or shipped for England?—Chiefly to our adjoining county town, and to Dunbar, a small sea-port; our barley is mainly sent to the brewers at Edinburgh, but the wheat is chiefly sent to the local markets.

10005. Is the quality of your wheat very superior?—I think it superior to the average of Scotland, but not equal to the English wheat.

10006. Mr. *Sanford.*] Is it red, or white wheat?—Generally white.

10007. *Chairman.*] Do you know the weight of it?—Sixty-four pounds a bushel is considered good weight by me.

10008. Have you observed whether the average weight of that wheat has increased within the last three or four years?—I think it has been better the last two years than it was before.

10009. Has that caused a great increase in the produce of flour?—Very great.

10010. Do you think the low price of wheat may be attributed to the fine harvests, and the increased produce of flour in consequence of the greater weight of the wheat?—Very much, I think.

10011. Which were the most abundant seasons?—Those of 1832, 1833 and 1834, were very abundant with me.

10012. Which was the most abundant?—That of 1833.

10013. Were they above an average crop?—Very greatly above the preceding years.

10014. Can you state the amount of the crops, in each of the three years, upon your farm?—I speak to the Truprain farm; in 1832, 845 bolls; 1833, 1,078 bolls; 1834, 800 bolls.

10015. What were the crops in the preceding years?—I will begin with 1828, which was the worst year I ever saw, and partly to be attributed to my own mismanagement; I had a concern in the High country, from which I brought down some sheep in the previous year; I had conceived that it would be useful to sow rape upon the stubble; I ploughed 50 acres, and sowed rape where I should have sown wheat; I waited every day for a dry season, and at length I sowed it in desperation, and the produce was reduced to 273 bolls that year, where in one year I had 1,078.

10016. What was it in 1829 and the two following years?—In 1829, 664 bolls; in 1830, 476; and in 1831, 520.

10017. Mr. *Cayley.*] Can you state what it was previous to those years?—I am not able to go further back than that, now.

10018. Do you know whether those seasons were adverse to wheat generally?—They were.

10019. Then those crops were below the average?—Certainly below an average with me, and in the district generally.

10020. What do you conceive to be the average crop of wheat upon your farm?—Thirty-two bolls per acre.

10021. How many acres of wheat have you generally?—I grow 100 acres of wheat upon that farm.

10022. How many bolls would that amount to?—I think I grow about eight bolls an acre, and that would be 800 bolls for 100 acres.

10023. You think that is the average crop?—I conceive so.

10024. Then, when you state that the seasons of 1832, 1833, and 1834 were good seasons, do you compare them with the years immediately preceding those, or with an average common crop?—I compare them with the years immediately preceding.

10025. Which were very bad seasons?—Very bad; miserable to me.

10026. In some cases, not above half a crop?—Not so much, in one case, to me.

10027. Mr. *Loch.*] When did the present lease that you have just renewed, begin?—In 1792 I succeeded to my father, there were then three years of his lease to run, then the rent of the farm was 60*l.* a year; then I took a new lease, for which I paid 240*l.*; then I took another lease, and it was raised to 600*l*; that money-rent was found to be impossible to pay, and in common with other tenants I was allowed a conversion into a corn-rent, and for that I paid 354 bolls of wheat.

Mr. *A. Howden.*

19 April 1836.

10028. You stated, that upon the first lease you took, you laid out a good deal of money upon draining; do you happen to recollect how much money you laid out?—I could not say.

10029. You had no assistance from the landlord?—None at all.

10030. You laid that out upon the expectation of being able to get a return during the lease?—Yes.

10031. Since you renewed the last lease, you began to furrow drain; have you received any assistance from the landlord in doing that?—I expect to get some allowance from Miss Dalrymple.

10032. To what extent have you laid out money of your own?—The estimate I gave to Miss Dalrymple was 250*l.*

10033. Have you limed the farm at all?—With the exception of thirty acres, I have limed the whole since I have commenced with it.

10034. At what rate per acre have you limed it?—At the time I limed it, it cost me at the lime-kiln about 5*l.* an acre.

10035. How much would that amount to altogether?—I am speaking now of the 300 acre farm, that would be 1,500*l.*

10036. Do you receive any assistance from the landlord in that?—None.

10037. Then it was the additional produce that the farm would make, that induced you to lay out so much capital?—That was my expectation.

10038. How often do you lime?—I have not limed it thoroughly but once; I am in the habit of mixing up the lime with compost, and applying it to that part of the land mainly where I grow turnips.

10039. Do you make use of any other extraneous manures?—Bone manure upon one farm.

10040. Do you make use of rape cake?—Never to any extent; but I am in the practice of drawing from a town near me a great quantity of manure from the streets weekly, and I get the fish garbage from it; it is a sea-port town; I reckon the manure to cost me 150*l.* a year.

10041. And for that you receive no assistance from the landlord?—None.

10042. Do you feed any cattle?—Yes, from 70 to 90, in the winter, upon turnips, &c.

10043. Where do you send your cattle?—Chiefly to Edinburgh and Glasgow; some to Morpeth.

10044. Have you introduced an economical method of feeding cattle?—Yes, I have a report here upon the subject.

10045. So that upon clay lands you are able to feed cattle at a more economical rate than if you were to raise turnips for feeding them?—This experiment will show that, I think.

10046. Will you state shortly what it is?—I had twenty cattle, I put them into four lots, each of five; to one five I gave the produce of three and a half imperial acres of turnips; to another five I gave the produce of an acre and three quarters of turnips, and an acre and thee quarters of potatoes; to another five I gave an acre and three quarters produce of beans, and an acre and three quarters of turnips; to another five, an acre and three quarters of beans, and an acre and three quarters of potatoes.

10047. What has been the result of those different methods of feeding?—The quantity of food stored for lot No. 1 was 49 ton 10 cwt. and the total food consumed by that number was 48 ton 18 cwt. The increase in girth upon that lot upon turnips alone was 2 feet 2 inches; the increase on lot No. 2, on turnips and potatoes, was 2 feet 5½ inches; the increase upon the turnips and meal, was 3 feet 1 inch; and the increase upon the potatoes and meal, was 3 feet ½ inch. But I must say that the girthing by which they were tried is not altogether a certain mode; but I expect to get an accurate return; indeed the cattle were sold with that obligation, that the fleshers should keep a correct account of the weight of beef, tallow, and hide.

10048. Were the whole of the cattle the same kind of cattle?—Yes; they were bred by myself two years old, and of the same quality; they were lotted by two gentlemen, one of whom is here, and I attended to their keeping.

10049. Will you have the goodness to deliver in that report upon this subject?

[*The same was delivered in, and is as follows:*]

REPORTS.—Premium for Experimental Feeding.

Mr. *A. Howden.*

19 April 1836.

No. I.

Sir, East Fortune, March 21, 1836.

In compliance with the request contained in your note of the 16th instant, I send you the following Report of a comparative experiment in feeding cattle, conducted by me, in competition for the premium offered by the East Lothian Agricultural Society.

The Committee of Management having approved of the scheme submitted to them, as required by the conditions contained in their advertisement, the cattle experimented upon were on the 17th October last chosen from my winter fatting stock, and divided into four lots, each lot consisting of seven oxen, by the Sub-Committee appointed to superintend experiments of this kind.

The cattle are of the common breed of the counties of Durham and Northumberland, are at present four years old, and have been fed in the following manner:—

Lot 1. has been fed on turnips alone, getting as many as the cattle could consume.

Lot 2. has had potatoes at the rate of about 34 lbs. per day for each ox, besides as many turnips as they could eat.

Lot 3. has had, along with an unlimited quantity of turnips, an allowance, to each ox, of 5lbs. linseed cake per day. And

Lot 4. has been fed on draff and dreg from Linton Grain Distillery; and latterly a mixture of peas and oats, coarsely ground, has been given with the draff.

An account has been kept of the number of carts of turnips given to each lot, and a cart-load occasionally weighed, in order that the whole quantities consumed might be approximated to with sufficient accuracy:—the whole of the other food has been weighed or measured.

The experiment commenced on the 19th October last; and from that date to this, a period of twenty-two weeks, the quantities of food that the four lots have severally consumed, are as follows:—

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Lot 1. fed on Turnips alone, has consumed						
36 Tons White Globe, at 6*s.* per ton	10	16	–			
27 ditto Dale's Hybrid, at 7*s.* ditto	9	9	–			
33 ditto Swedish, at 9*s.* ditto	14	17	–			
				35	2	–
This is at the rate of about 4*s.* 7*d.* per week for each ox.						
Lot 2. fed on Turnips and Potatoes.						
22 Tons White Globe, at 6*s.* per ton	6	12	–			
17 ditto Dale's Hybrid, at 7*s.* ditto	5	19	–			
19 ditto Swedish, at 9*s.* ditto	8	11	–			
16¼ ditto Potatoes, at 30*s.* ditto	24	7	6			
				45	9	6
This is at the rate of about 5*s.* 7*d.* per week for each ox.						
Lot 3. fed on Turnips and Linseed Cake.						
35 Tons White Globe, at 6*s.* per ton	10	10	–			
25 ditto Dale's Hybrid, at 7*s.* ditto	8	15	–			
33 ditto Swedish, at 9*s.* ditto	14	17	–			
45½ cwt. Linseed Cake, at 7*s.* 9*d.* per cwt.	17	12	7½			
				51	14	7½
This is at the rate of about 6*s.* 8½ *d.* per week for each ox.						
Lot 4. fed on Distillery Grains, &c.						
115 Qrs. Draff, at 4*s.* per qr.	23	–	–			
83 Puncheons Dreg, at 2*s.* per pun. of 125 imp. gals.	8	6	–			
4 Qrs. Peas coarsely ground, at 28*s.* per qr.	5	12	–			
1½ Qrs. Oats ditto ditto, at 20*s.* ditto	1	16	–			
16 Bushels Salt, cost price	1	1	3			
				39	9	3
This is at the rate of about 5*s.* 1½ *d.* per week for each ox.						

As the cattle are to be exhibited at Haddington on the 1st April, and there inspected and valued by judges appointed by the Committee of Management, I shall not insert any comparative estimate of the weight or value of the separate lots: I cannot give their exact measurement, as several of the cattle will not allow it to be taken.

Mr. *A. Howden.*

19 April 1836.

Regarding the quality of the different kinds of food, I may state, that the White Globe and Dale's hybrid turnips, were grown on dry gravelly soil of good quality, the manure a mixture of bones and rape cakes; they were sown rather late, were of small size, and very firm and juicy. The Swedish turnips grew on a more clayey soil, of very good quality,—were manured with farm-yard dung and bones,—and when lifted, the smaller roots were kept out. All the three varieties were excellent of their kind; and if it be considered that there is nothing deducted from the price of the oil cake and other rich food, on account of the very superior quality as well as increased quantity of the manure which they produce, I conceive that the rates of value adopted for the turnips will not be thought too high.

The potatoes given to Lot 2. were of the variety called Dons, and of a quality that would be considered good in any season; I mention this, because, although cattle, when they have a choice, prefer the larger and coarser varieties, these contain a much less proportion of nutritive matter than the table sorts.

The linseed cake employed, was of the best Dutch, and probably not much inferior to English-made cake. For the most profitable employment of this expensive food, the present experiment has been continued too long; for, even admitting that the cattle fed on it have increased in weight of beef considerably more during the last half of the time, than they did during the first, yet as their beef at the end of the first three months would have brought about the highest price in the market, the food since consumed by them, it appears to me, might have been more profitably used in feeding another such lot; for in this way twice the number of lean carcasses would have been converted into valuable beef.

Finding that the lot on distillery offal were making very little improvement, I began, in the beginning of February, to give them some meal mixed with their draff; before this, when the draff was new and sweet, they did very well, but as it grew stale, they eat gradually less and less of it, and more straw, with which, in common with the three other lots, they were always liberally supplied; since that time, by increasing the quantity of meal as the draff became sour, the mixture is always eaten with relish, and the cattle have been improving very rapidly. The expense of feeding, also, is at the same time greatly increasing; the meal, at the rate they have been allowed it, costing for each ox fully 3*s.* per week. Given at a smaller daily rate, continued during a longer period, the same quantity of meal would probably have produced a better effect; but from what I have observed while conducting this experiment, I am convinced that if distillery offal, at its present price, can in any way be profitably used in years when not more than ordinary profit on feeding is obtained, it must be by giving along with it some other better food.

Trusting that these notes contain all necessary information,

I am, &c.

A. Brodie.

To Mr. George Dods, Secretary, U. E. L. A. S.

The following is the valuation put upon the several lots by the judges; viz.

Lot 1.—Valued at £.21. 10*s.* each	Lot 3.—Valued at £.25 each.
— 2.— Ditto £.22. 10*s.* each	— 4.— Ditto £.21 ditto.

No. II.

Dear Sir, Lawhead, 24th March 1836.

After receiving your letter of the 18th October, I was induced to prosecute the experiment which I had previously signified my wish to conduct, in the hope of its leading to some beneficial result. The object sought for, was to ascertain whether beans, potatoes and turnips, raised in equal proportions upon certain kinds of soil, might not be made available in feeding cattle, as successfully and extensively as could be done by the same extent of land being put exclusively to a crop of turnips for the like purpose.

With an intention of throwing some light upon this subject, two members of your subcommittee proceeded, with the assistance of Mr. John Hutchison, to separate twelve queys and eight steers into four lots of five each, three queys and two steers in each lot. They were marked, numbered, and tied to the stake that day; and by 25th October the several lots were put to their allowance, fewer potatoes being given the first fortnight, as a matter of precaution. Before this time I had arranged matters, taken up, weighed and stored for the lot of five cattle,—

No. 1. Three and a half imperial acres of Swedish turnips, weight per acre 14 tons 3 cwt., say in all 49½ tons. This I calculated would afford 134 lbs. daily to each beast, up to the time of their removal.

No. 2.

No. 2. For this lot I stored one and three quarters acres of turnips, and one and three quarters of potatoes, which weighed 12 tons per acre; so that the allowance for the five cattle, in all, was 24¾ tons of turnips, and 21 tons of potatoes, yielding 67 lbs. of turnips and 56 lbs of potatoes per day to each animal.

No. 3. For this lot I stored one and three quarters acre of turnips, 24¾ tons produce, and set apart also the produce of one and three quarters acre of pease and beans, which I imagined might produce 8 bolls per acre; but the crop at this period not being in a condition to be thrashed or ground, I borrowed 4 bolls of old beans, which were afterwards repaid, upon the supposition of 8 bolls. However, I proceeded to serve out daily for each beast of this lot, 67 lbs. of turnips and 4 lbs. of meal. The bean crop being now thrashed, it was found to yield 16½ bolls in place of 14; I therefore on 1st January increased the daily allowance from 4 to 6 lbs.

No. 4. For this lot I stored one and three quarters acre of potatoes, produce 21 tons; and one and three quarters of pease and beans, 16½ bolls. Here, as in the case of No. 3, four bolls of old beans were borrowed, so that at first the daily allowance for each beast was 56 lbs. of potatoes and 4 lbs of meal, the quantity of meal being increased to 6 lbs. the same as No. 3. I may further mention, that each beast of this lot only was allowed daily about 10 Scotch pints of water, and straw in common with the three other lots which got no water.

Thus managed, the cattle will be exhibited on the show ground at Haddington, when the Judges will determine the result of this experiment. By a few days close attendance in the outset, I was enabled to guard against mistakes in the after-management. The turnips, potatoes and beans having been measured off, one acre of the turnips and another of the potatoes were taken up from different spaces of seven drills, each as directed by the gentlemen of the sub-committee.

The produce of 14 imperial acres of land having been thus apportioned for the 20 cattle, each five being to consume the produce of 3½ acres, which were separately and distinctly set apart for them: Having seen this correctly done, the keeper was allowed to proceed in his own way; as I foresaw that in the end the remainder (if any of the produce should remain) would testify concerning the relative value of turnips, potatoes and beans, per acre, when converted into beef; this being the main object sought for in such an experiment.

It may be proper to mention, that on 1st December one of the queys (No. 2.) in my absence, swelled with the potatoes to such a degree, as to induce the keeper to stab her: she recovered, but, at the judgment of Mr. John Hutchison, another of the same girth was put in her place. On the 22d February, a steer of the same lot (No. 2.) was necessarily sent to market, on account of a swelling on his jaw, and another put in his place. To add to the ill luck of this lot, on the 9th March, the quey put in the place of the first unfortunate one, had also to be stabbed. With these exceptions, nothing untoward ever happened to any of the other cattle. They were girthed for the first time on the 10th November, and afterwards regularly once a month,—a tabular statement of which is subjoined. Were it possible to come to the dead weight of beef, hide and tallow, of the several lots, it would, I think, be useful; and should the Society require it of me, I shall ascertain the wheat produce of one acre of the land which produced the different varieties of food, all of which are now under wheat.

Notwithstanding that I fear having been already too prolix, I cannot conclude without expressing a hope that the Society will give encouragement to a further trial, as I really think it a matter worthy of farther consideration. So far it seems to me, that beans and potatoes per acre are not perhaps of less value in feeding cattle than turnips. It was only this day that I weighed over a sufficient quantity of the different varieties of food to serve the cattle until the 1st April, and I also caused to be weighed what will be left unconsumed against that day.

I conclude by mentioning, that no account has been taken of the turnip shaws, nor of the bean straw; but if these are placed in the account against the surplus quantity of potatoes withheld at first for fear of swelling, the balance may be inconsiderable; and it being kept in mind that the land which produced the different descriptions of food was of equal quality and got the same quantity of manure, only that the turnips had in addition a small allowance of compost in the drills, this experiment warrants the impression that our stiffer soils may in future vie with the turnip land in the butcher market. If more leisure had been allowed, I should have tried to condense what I have said, but I have at least inserted nothing hypothetical.—I am, &c.

Andrew Howden.

The following is the valuation put upon the several lots by the Judges—viz.

Lot 1.—Valued at £. 12. 4*s.* each.	Lot 3.—Valued at £. 14. 16*s.* each.
—2.— Ditto £. 13. 12*s.* ditto.	—4.—Ditto £. 14. ditto.

Mr. *A. Howden.*

19 April 1836.

KIND and QUANTITY of FOOD stored and consumed.

		TURNIPS.			POTATOES.			BEANS.		
	No.	*Tons.*	*cwts.*	*lbs.*	*Tons.*	*cwts.*	*lbs.*	*Tons.*	*cwts.*	*lbs.*
Kind and quantity of food stored for	1.	49	10	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Unconsumed	–	–	12	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
TOTAL Food consumed	–	48	18	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Kind and quantity of food stored for	2.	24	15	–	21	–	–	–	–	–
Unconsumed	–	–	–	–	5	–	–	–	–	–
TOTAL consumed	–	24	15	–	16	–	–	–	–	–
Kind and quantity of food stored for	3.	24	15	–	–	–	–	1	17	80
Unconsumed	–	–	6	–	–	–	–	–	4	–
TOTAL consumed	–	24	9	–	–	–	–	1	13	80
Kind and quantity of food stored for	4.	–	–	–	21	–	–	1	17	80
Unconsumed	–	–	–	–	5	–	–	–	4	–
TOTAL consumed	–	–	–	–	16	–	–	1	13	80

TABLE OF GIRTH.

LOT No. 1. On Turnips.			LOT No. 2. On Turnips and Potatoes.			LOT No. 3. On Turnips and Meal.			LOT No. 4. On Potatoes and Meal.		
	No.	*Ft. in.*		No.	*Ft. in.*		No.	*Ft. in.*		No.	*Ft. in.*
Nov. 10	1	5 8½	Nov. 10	1	5 7½	Nov. 10	1	6 3	Nov. 10	1	5 8
	2	5 8½		2	6 4		2	5 4½		2	5 11
	3	5 1½		3	5 4		3	5 5½		3	5 3
	4	5 7½		4	5 7½		4	5 8		4	5 7½
	5	5 9½		5	5 9		5	5 6		5	5 6
		27 11½			28 8			28 3			27 11½
Dec. 10	1	5 10	Dec. 10	1	5 9	Dec. 10	1	6 8½	Dec. 10	1	5 11
	2	5 9½		2	6 6		2	5 9½		2	6 2½
	3	5 2½		3	5 7		3	5 8½		3	5 6
	4	5 8½		4	5 9½		4	5 10		4	5 9½
	5	5 11		5	5 7½		5	5 11		5	5 8
		28 5½			29 3			29 11½			29 1
Jan. 10	1	5 11	Jan. 10	1	5 10	Jan. 10	1	6 9½	Jan. 11	1	6 1½
	2	5 10		2	6 7½		2	5 9½		2	6 1
	3	5 4		3	5 10		3	5 7		3	5 8
	4	5 9		4	6 –		4	5 10		4	5 9
	5	6 –		5	5 11		5	5 11		5	5 10½
		28 10			30 2½			29 11			29 6
Feb. 10	1	5 11½	Feb. 10	1	5 11½	Feb. 10	1	6 11	Feb. 10	1	6 2
	2	5 11		2	6 8		2	6 –		2	6 3
	3	5 4½		3	5 10		3	5 9		3	5 9½
	4	5 10½		4	6 1		4	5 11½		4	5 11
	5	6 1		5	6 1½		5	5 9		5	5 11
		29 2½			30 8			30 4½			30 –½
Mar. 24	1	6 3	Mar. 24	1	6 2	Mar. 24	1	7 –	Mar. 24	1	6 4
	2	6 2		2	6 8½		2	6 1		2	6 6
	3	5 5½		3	5 11		3	6 –		3	6 1
	4	6 –		4	6 1½		4	6 2		4	6 –
	5	6 3		5	6 2½		5	6 1		5	6 1
		30 1½			31 1½			31 4			31 –
		27 11½			28 8			28 3			27 11⅓
Increase		2 2	Increase		2 5½	Increase		3 1	Increase		3 –½

48

10050. Mr. *Loch.*] Do you consider that by following the method of Lot No. 3, you would be able at a cheaper rate to produce a larger quantity of fat cattle?—Yes.

10051. And that with potatoes and meal?—Yes.

10052. You plough with two horses?—Universally.

10053. What quantity of land can you plough in the course of a day?—I should calculate an English acre, for I have done as much in my day, when I started with my father; I was then tied to the plough, and I have done for a week a Scotch acre a day; but when I speak of what the Scotch labourers do, I should not rate it above an English acre a day.

10054. Do you do that upon the stiff loams?—I think we do; we have most willing labourers, and, whenever it is required, they will make an exertion.

10055. What is the depth of the furrows?—From seven to nine inches.

10056. By means of furrow-draining have you been able to grow turnips upon land that was formerly unfit to grow turnips?—I have; this very season I have had a proof of it.

10057. Your heavy land is a stiff soil?—Yes.

10058. Have you stirred it up at all by ploughing?—We have in fallowing, in several instances, ploughed with four horses.

10059. Will you describe your mode of furrow-draining?—In my case, being situated near to a mountain which is slaty, I have an opportunity of getting flat stones, and although I have in some instances drained with tile, I generally use stones, what we call couple-drains, and put six or eight inches of rock metal above it.

10060. What is the depth of the drains?—Two feet and a half.

10061. Do you make up each furrow, or each second furrow?—Generally speaking, I have done it in alternate furrows.

10062. How much does it cost an acre?—From 6*l.* to 12*l.* an acre.

10063. Is that entirely at your own expense?—It has been hitherto; but I expect that Miss Dalrymple, who is a very kind proprietor, will allow me a part of it.

10064. Sir *Robert Peel.*] Is there any lateral line between the two main drains?—There is a good deal of stone in different parts of the farm, and we often find bursts of water from the rock, and for those bursts we cut a strong cross-drain, so as to lead it into a furrow drain.

10065. What is the distance of the two furrow drains from each other?—My ridges are only 16 feet; generally through the county they are 18 feet.

10066. In stiff land, does the influence of that drain extend on each side six or eight feet?—Yes; I have never seen any land that was wet after it was furrow-drained, however wet it was before.

10067. It is not necessary to have a side drain, in stiff clay?—There is no land that I know, that is wet after that process.

10068. The drain is dug in the ordinary way, preparatory to the tile being put in?—With me it is; but I believe there are other persons that cut the drain narrower; but I get them cut to the depth of two feet and a half; in most cases the drains are filled up by the mould getting in, and therefore I deepen the drain more than some people do; I believe that two feet is usual.

10069. *Chairman.*] Have you a tile at the bottom?—No, two slates; and where I have put a tile, I have put the concave side uppermost, and covered it with a slatish stone, so that the stream of water is in the circular part of the drain; and then I put about six or eight inches of stone above it.

10070. Mr. *Cayley.*] Is this a very stiff clay?—Part of the farm is stiff, but not, generally speaking.

10071. Can you grow turnips well upon a stiff clay?—No, I do not attempt it upon a stiff clay.

10072. Then it is a clay of a mild character?—Rather so.

10073. Have you given up growing turnips, and turned to beans?—No, I have persevered in the turnips.

10074. Upon the clay land do you eat off the turnips with sheep?—I draw the turnips wholly for cattle upon the clay farm; I do not feed sheep, except upon grass.

10075. At what time of the year do you pull them?—In the Autumn, early in November, or the end of October; my practice is to take off the whole of the turnips off the clay land.

Mr. A. Howden.

19 April 1836.

10076. If it should happen to be a wet season, can you do that?—We must not attempt it in wet; we watch an opportunity, and having a command of labour, we can do it in a few days.

10077. Has it ever happened to you to be prevented taking off the turnips?—I have been under the necessity of delaying it a week or two.

10078. Have the turnips suffered in consequence?—I do not think so.

10079. Has the land ever been poached by horses coming upon it in any number?—If it is so poached, it is most hurtful.

10080. Can you always get in the wheat after you draw your turnips?—I never recollect missing a season, except upon the occasion I have mentioned with the rape seed.

10081. Do you reckon beans, with which you propose to feed your cattle, a certain crop?—I would say they are a tolerably certain crop; I think they are less certain than oats; oats is the most certain crop with us, and then next to that barley, and then wheat.

10082. Is not wheat the most certain crop?—I do not think so.

10083. Has your plan of feeding with beans answered the better, in consequence of the last three seasons having been favourable to beans?—I never practised it but this season, and the profit from it greatly exceeds my average profit.

10084. Had you a large crop of beans?—I had a very good crop.

10085. How have the Spring crops been, the last three years?—Very good; the oats have left me more money than the wheat this year.

10086. How is the barley?—I am not a great grower of barley, but that has been very good.

10087. Do not you grow barley upon the turnip soil?—I have hitherto preferred growing wheat.

10088. Do you keep any sheep?—I have a high country farm, where I breed sheep, and I bring the young sheep and give them turnips, and sell them, when they are clipped, in the Spring.

10089. Did you lose any sheep by the rot?—No, I do not think I did. That farm belongs to the Earl of Haddington, and he gave me an allowance for draining.

10090. Are you aware that an extensive rot took place in England a few years ago?—I have read a good deal of it, and in passing up I saw a great many flocks of sheep that are tainted now.

10091. Did the price of sheep rise in consequence of that?—The price of sheep has been good latterly, and I have been better paid by the sheep upon the farm than any thing else.

10092. Do you recollect what the price of sheep was immediately before the rot took place?—Yes.

10093. Was it lower immediately preceding the rot in 1826, 1827 and 1828?—In 1826, 1827 and 1828, it was lower.

10094. And it rose immediately afterwards, when the rot commenced?—Yes.

10095. That would be an advantage to the upland farms, where the rot did not come?—It has been to me an advantage.

10096. And that has been the greatest advantage you have had from your farm?—I think it has, in proportion to the capital employed.

10097. Would you say there was less wheat sown in your neighbourhood, the last sowing time?—Yes, considerably.

10098. Do you think that is rather owing to the adversity of the seed time, than to the low price of wheat?—Both.

10099. What difference does it make to you, who pay a corn-rent, whether wheat is high or low?—I prefer a high price, because in my corn-rent I have a maximum price of 70*s.* a quarter.

10100. A good season is very advantageous to you, paying a corn-rent, because you have a large produce and a small rent?—Yes, that is the cause, I think, of our present comfort.

10101. The last three years have been extraordinary seasons?—Yes, I should say so.

10102. The three preceding years having been very deficient crops?—The years 1828 and 1831 were the worst with me; but that was not generally the case.

10103. You say you would like to be better off; will you explain what you mean by liking to be better off; do you want a higher price for your corn?—Yes, I should apprehend that our present fiars prices are lower than, taking the chance of coming years, the farmer can comfortably exist with.

10104. Have most of the corn-rents a maximum, like yours?—They have, most of them I think, 33*s.* 4*d.* or 35*s.* per boll.

10105. Then, when it approaches the maximum, you are then upon the principle of a fixed money-rent?—In my case it has never risen to a fixed money payment.

10106. Then every advance of price is advantageous to you?—Yes.

10107. If there were no maximum, you would not be in so safe a situation?—I should not venture to rent any land without a maximum.

10108. You say you have been a farmer since 1792; what period should you say was the most flourishing for the farmer, from 1792 to the present time?—I do not know that it is the proper standard to adopt; but the fiars in 1786, I perceive, when I took my first agreement, were 51*s.* 8*d.*; this year they are 36*s.* 7*d.* making a difference against the present time of 15*s.* 2*d.* a quarter.

10109. Without any reference to prices, which can be obtained from the Parliamentary Returns, will you state your impression of what times were the best for the farmers?—I think, when I made my engagement in 1817; those would be the best times to me, when we had wheat at 4*l.*

10110. Do you think the farmers, generally speaking, were better off before the war in 1792, than they are now?—I think so.

10111. Do you think they were making more money?—With me there would be no question of it, because it was then that we acquired capital, which kept us upon our feet for a time.

10112. Do you think, from 1830 to the present time, you have been increasing your capital much?—I think, if I sold off, I am better now than when I started in life.

10113. If you had been sold off in 1820, do you think you would have been better off than you are now?—I do not know that mine is a fair case to be taken as a general case, because I started very poor in life, and I have had a hard struggle, and other circumstances that contributed to assist me; I am the only remaining farmer in the parish where I was brought up; except myself, there is not a farmer nor the son of a farmer remaining within the parish, but myself.

10114. What is the reason of their having all gone away?—The money-rents that were exacted of them; they all conceived that they were to have 80*s.* a quarter, and their calculations were made upon that; it soon appeared that that could not be realized, and they were not converted, and ruin has been the consequence.

10115. Then there has been a great change of tenantry in your neighbourhood?—There has been.

10116. And that has been caused by the fall of prices?—Yes, and the want of accommodation on the part of the proprietors.

10117. The proprietors have not reduced their rents in proportion?—They now have generally done so; but they were later in doing it than the circumstances required, and therefore the tenantry fell.

10118. In your opinion, did the corn law that was made in 1815 deceive both the landlord and the tenant?—It did; I believe that the calculation upon which they took at that time was almost universally 4*l.* a quarter.

10119. The general impression was, that the corn laws then made would have the effect of keeping wheat at the price of 80*s.* and both landlord and tenant were deceived in that?—Yes.

10120. There was some other cause at work, which brought the price down?—I do not know.

10121. If the corn law had not the effect of keeping up the price, something must have reduced the price?—It did reduce; but as to the cause, I shall not pretend to say.

10122. The corn law having promised a price of 80*s.* failed to perform it?—Yes.

10123. You say that you are not a fair sample as to what money has been lost by the farmers, because you started in life without much money, and you made a great deal of money?—I did not make a great deal of money; but I was in the practice of keeping young men to board from other countries.

Mr. *A. Howden.*

19 April 1836.

10124. From 1792 to 1820 you made a good deal of money by farming, within that period?—Yes, I made money.

10125. If you had started farming in 1820, and had had to trust to farming alone, how much would you have made at the present time?—To the present time I could have made nothing, I should have been ruined; because, within the last three years, if a money-rent had been demanded of me, I should have paid upwards of 1,800*l.* more than I have done in the three years.

10126. *Chairman.*] Suppose your farm had been taken at a corn-rent in 1820?—Then I should have gone on, because the seven bushels an acre which I pay, I think is a fair proportion for the landlord to receive and for me to pay.

10127. Will you explain how the corn-rent is set?—I have been summoned every year, with the exception of two years, ever since I have been a farmer; and the bulk of the farmers of the county; by far the majority of the farmers, are summoned to appear before the sheriff upon a day, to bring with them the quantity and the price at which they have sold their grain, and to this they are required to make oath of the quantity of all the corn sold and delivered within the county for ready money, with the exception of seed and light corn.

10128. Sir *Robert Peel.*] Suppose a person sells it to a retail dealer in corn within his own rick-yard?—Any where within the county.

10129. There are three classes of corn in your county?—The sheriff divides this in the way I shall mention: he takes the whole returns, and calculates the average of that; to that average he adds $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, and I believe for this reason, that there was a period when the fiars prices were taken at two periods of the season, Candlemas, the 2d of February, and Lammas, the 2d of August; it was found that the Lammas fiars exceeded the Candlemas fiars, and therefore the sheriff added $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, as it is only struck at one period of the season; this contitutes the second fiars, which are the medium price of the county; of all above that, he takes an average again, that is the high-price fiars; and of all below he takes an average, that is the third fiars.

10130. What constitutes the mass?—The mass is the whole quantity delivered in to him; it must not be light corn nor seed corn.

10131. Mr. *Loch.*] What do you call light corn?—In dressing the corn, the farmer throws back the light corn, and it is separated in that way; that is sold in the market, but it is not returned to the sheriff.

10132. That statement is made to the sheriff upon oath?—Upon oath.

10133. *Chairman.*] If corn is sold several different times, from the farmer to the miller, and from the miller to some other person, is that taken into account?—There was a period when the millers were summoned as well as the farmers; but seeing that they returned corn sometimes twice over, they are not summoned.

10134. Mr. *Cayley.*] In fact, the growers are the only parties that make the return?—I think so.

10135. Sir *Robert Peel.*] Is there general satisfaction with the accuracy of the return?—I think very great; we have seen writings in the newspapers, finding fault with the system, but I know one or two of my friends that keep the averages of the sales in the market of Haddington town, and they come within 2*d.* of the sheriff's.

10136. Having got the averages, supposing it is 50*s.* a quarter the great mass, and that there is a certain quantity at 54*s.* a quarter, of the highest quality, and a certain other quantity, and 46*s.* a quarter, of the lowest quality; how does this bear upon the determination of your rents?—The sheriff sums this, and divides it into three, and that is the average; and that is the price that we pay.

10137. Does he publish it in the Gazette?—Yes.

10138. You contract to pay to your landlord a certain number of bolls of corn?—Yes, at the medium fiars price.

10139. Supposing there is a farm of 300 acres, what sort of offer would you make to your landlord when you went to take a lease?—If it was 300 acres, taking it at six bushels an acre, I would offer the landlord 450 bolls.

10140. Supposing it was a grazing farm, would the offer still be made in bolls of corn?—We have no grazing farm, except in the mountains and in the Lammer Muir.

10141. Is it of wheat, barley and oats that the fiars are made?—The fiars of East Lothian for all grains are taken, but the rents generally are paid by the wheat fiars.

49

10142. Supposing your land was barley land, should you make the offer in wheat?—We have no land in East Lothian which is not capable of being in wheat, and which has hitherto proved the most profitable crop, with the exception of the present year.

10143. What is your payment per acre upon one of the farms that you rent?—Upon the Lawhead-farm I pay 354 bolls, that is about seven bushels an acre.

10144. Mr. *Cayley.*] Supposing the average crop was 20 bushels, and you had a very wet season, and you only had half a crop; and supposing prices were to double in consequence of the crop being diminished one half; then, according to your corn-rent, you would have to pay a very high rent?—No, we have a maximum, beyond which it never shall go; it never can exceed 70*s.*

10145. Then, it is in consequence of the uncertainty of the seasons that you think it necessary to have a maximum?—Quite necessary; I have known cases in my early life, where there was no maximum, and where the farmers were ruined; but now that guard is put upon it, it is more safe.

10146. Then the system of corn-rent is not safe, unless you have a limit to it?—I think not.

10147. Mr. *Morrison.*] Does the landlord require a minimum for his protection?—I had a minimum during one of the leases, but I have no minimum now; nor do I think the farmer ought to have a minimum, because I hold that the lower corn sinks in value, the less quantity the farmer is able to pay.

10148. Mr. *Cayley.*] Why is he less able to pay?—Because, upon the quantity demanded from him, there is less for contingencies.

10149. If the price falls from the increase of quantity, and he pays his wages upon the increased quantity and his rent also, still the increased quantity would be an advantage to him?—It will depend upon the excess of produce; if he had a high excess of produce, it might be as well, but I think the chances are against the farmer, and therefore, I believe, generally speaking, there is no minimum.

10150. Do you conceive that with respect to other charges arising upon the farm, for example, the tradesmen's bills, if there happens to be a low price, the tradesmen's bills will immediately come down to the low price?—No; labour is not sunk in proportion to the value of produce.

10151. Mr. *Loch.*] Does the corn-rent apply to the whole rent, or to a portion of it?—To the whole rent.

10152. Is it for an average of years, or for five years?—Each and every year is my situation, but many people have an average of years.

10153. Mr. *Cayley.*] Why is wheat selected as the standard of the corn-rent?—Because it is the staple of the county.

10154. There is more wheat grown than any other species of grain?—Yes, one-third of the whole farm is in wheat.

10155. Was it chosen in the first instance, because wheat was then the most valuable crop to the farmer?—Very likely it would be so; the first person that introduced it extensively, was the Earl of Hopetoun.

10156. Do you think that if the farmers were to choose now for themselves, they would choose wheat as the test upon which to ground the fiars?—I think there could not be any fairer test.

10157. Suppose that in consequence of low price, it should become general that there was less wheat grown, and that barley should be to a great extent substituted for wheat; would not barley then be the best test upon which to fix the corn-rent?—I cannot conceive such a state of things, because it would immediately rectify itself with ordinary seasons. The quantity of wheat consumed has immensely increased in our district, and therefore I think wheat will never go out of cultivation.

10158. Has the quantity of wheat grown, very much increased, in Haddingtonshire, the last 20 years?—Yes; a century back, eight acres of wheat in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh was a wonder.

10159. Taking 20 years ago, do you think there was less wheat grown in Haddingtonshire than now?—Yes; I think there is more wheat grown now than ever before, with the exception of the present year.

10160. You think there is more land applied to wheat?—Yes.

10161. In what proportion should you say?—I could not speak correctly to that.

10162. Do you think that the quantity of wheat grown in Haddingtonshire

Mr. *A. Houden.*

19 April 1836.

has increassd in the ratio of one-fifth in the last 20 years?—I should think fully.

10163. Do you think there is the same produce per acre that there was?—With the same seasons, I think, an increased produce.

10164. Owing to what circumstance?—The better cultivation of the soil.

10165. Does that better cultivation arise from draining, or from extra manure?—Yes; and from the landlords keeping up their rents nominally, but assisting, so as to allow the tenants' capital to come into play. I think the furrow-draining has been a great improvement.

10166. You think that has been done by the landlords with the view of preventing a reduction of the rents?—I should imagine that that might be an object with them.

10167. Taking the tenantry of East Lothian, do you think they have as much capital now, as they had in 1820?—No. If I was speaking to a Scotch assembly, I would mention a trifling circumstance that happened with a person who contracts to do work, and employs 30 or 40 men. Three years ago, when I commenced the furrow-draining, I was trying to beat down this man, upon cutting a drain by the rod; the price allowed in former times was 8 *d.* for six yards, and I said to him, You must accommodate yourself to the times, you must come down, for we are starving, we poor tenants, and therefore you must do it for 6 *d.* or a penny a yard. The man's reply to me was this, that it was a very bad state of things, he was extensively employed about the district: he said, My belief is, that if the farmers of East Lothian were sold off, and if the landlords should demand their money engagements with them, there would not be a spoon left among the tenants to feed themselves with.

10168. Sir *James Graham.*] When your money rents were converted into corn-rents, how long a portion of the lease of Lord Haddington's tenants had to run out?—My lease is just expired now.

10169. Therefore supposing the tenants had remained solvent, Lord Haddington from 1823 to 1836 was entitled to a money payment?—Most unquestionably.

10170. Mr. *Cayley.*] Were those corn-rents rendered necessary in consequence of the fall of prices?—Quite so, or else nine-tenths of the tenants would have been swept away.

10171. What are the prices that you think would be sufficient, taking the farmer's condition and the labourer's condition into your consideration?—I should be well satisfied with 56*s.* a quarter for wheat.

10172. And what for barley?—I calculate that a bushel of barley and a bushel of oats, taken together, are about equal to the value of a bushel of wheat.

10173. If you would require that upon land in Scotland, where you have not large charges, if you were in England you would require a higher price than 56*s.*?—I should pay less rent.

10174. Supposing it was upon that land which is only worth a small proportion of rent?—In passing up here, I think the land I saw in that part of England as far as Leeds, is unable, in its present state of culture, to pay any rent at all. In that portion of England, from a little on this side of the Tweed till we reached Leeds, I would say three-fourths of the land in its present condition could scarcely yield any rent, after having the charges of England to pay; but if it were furrow drained, I think an immense improvement would be made.

10175. You have the advantage in Scotland of having no local charges; have you any other advantage over the English farmers?—We have no tithe.

10176. You have one-pound notes in Scotland, have not you?—We have.

10177. Would you like those one-pound notes to be taken away?—If I were to receive a guinea for the note, I would not object to the exchange.

10178. Would you like your guinea notes to be taken away?—I do not care what you put into my hand as the representatives of value.

10179. Do you think that the guinea notes are of any advantage to the agriculture of Scotland?—They are convenient.

10180. To whom?—To the person holding them in exchange for other articles that he may want.

10181. Are they convenient to the banker who issues them?—That is a subject which I am not acquainted with; I had better stop.

10182. You had rather not answer any questions upon the subject of banking?—No, I am quite incapable of going into that question.

51

Mr. *A. Howden.*

19 April 1836.

10183. Sir *James Graham.*] How do you pay your labourers' wages, in money altogether, or partly in money and partly in produce?—All our ploughmen are paid in kind; our day labourers are some of them paid in grain, but the bulk of them in money.

10184. What is the present condition of the labourers in East Lothian?—It is very comfortable now.

10185. Do you ever remember the working classes more comfortable than they are now?—I remember when they had more to spend, but I never saw them more comfortable than they are now.

10186. Upon the whole, have they as great a command over the comforts and conveniencies of life as they ever had before?—Yes, I think they are far more comfortable than at any previous period.

10187. As comfortable as they were during the high prices of the war?—Yes, I think as well fed, and better dressed.

10188. Have they changed their diet at all; do they eat more wheaten bread than they used?—A great deal more wheaten bread; not so much the ploughmen, but the day labourers, the men receiving money.

10189. And they are as contented with their situation as you ever remember them to have been?—Quite contented, peaceable, quiet, and the best set of workmen I ever saw.

10190. Mr. *B. Baring.*] Comparing the education of the farmers in Scotland and in England, how would a farmer in Scotland, holding 500 acres, bring up his son to husbandry?—I have three sons; I was advanced in life before I married; I am giving them the best education I can, but they will be nothing but farmers; but I am not exactly breeding them as I was bred myself, for I was just a regular labourer under my father for four years in my youth, but I am sending them at an expense, for the three of them, of 100*l.* a year board; it is what I cannot very well spare, but I think it is the best manner in which I can spend money on their account.

10191. Where do you send them?—To the neighbouring town; I have them a part of the day, each of them, in a writer's office, to learn to do business.

10192. Sir *James Graham.*] Are they taught practically all the operations of husbandry?—When I get them home, I shall make them attend to every part of it, to do the work just as I did; because I have had a number of young men under my charge, and several of them have been gentlemen that have kept horses; and I have had another set, that held the plough, and attended to every part of the work, and three out of four of those that practically made themselves acquainted with it, are thriving, whereas I can scarcely name one of the others that is.

10193. Your own sons you will make hold the plough?—I will.

10194. Mr. *B. Baring.*] What kind of education do they get in the town?—The person is a good mathematician, but he also is a good Latin scholar, and they will be taught Latin.

10195. And agricultural chemistry?—No; I mean to send them with their mother to Edinburgh in the coming season; she will watch over them a year in the town.

10196. Will chemistry then form a part of their education?—I believe that it sometimes does, and it is my purpose that it should be so; I have thought of bringing up two of them to form a judgment of land, and to sell their judgment, seeing there are others that I have noticed in the line that have made more money than by farming; I intend one of them to manage the farm at home, and the other to go abroad.

10197. Mr. *Evans.*] What age will they be when they return to you?—Eighteen.

10198. Sir *James Graham.*] What quantity of clover seed do you sow an acre?—Sixteen pounds a Scotch acre.

10199. Would you think it advantageous to the farmers of East Lothian if the price of clover seed were reduced?—Yes, it would benefit me about 15*l.* a year.

10200. What reduction do you contemplate when you say that?—Twenty shillings a hundred weight I was calculating upon the duty.

10201. What would be the feeling of the farmers generally, as to reducing the duty?—They would feel gratified by its change, because we scarcely ever think of saving the seed; our climate is quite unsuited to it.

Mr. *A. Howden.*

19 April 1836.

10202. If you wish to ensure a crop, you must grow a large quantity?—Yes; I think I should lose, if I sowed a small quantity.

10203. Therefore it is an object to the Scottish farmers, and to the farmers in the north generally, who must sow a large quantity to have the price of clover seed considerably reduced?—Yes.

10204. Mr. *Miles.*] Do you prefer English clover, or foreign?—Much the same; the English clover is generally stronger.

10205. Sir *James Graham.*] Is not the foreign better than the British?—I scarcely think I know any difference; I have sown both with equal success.

10206. Mr. *Miles.*] In stating the increase you got upon your beasts as fed upon four different qualities of food, you do not state what the value of the food given to the four lots of beasts is?—My object was to show the acreable value, what an acre would produce, if growing turnips, or potatoes, or beans; my estimate was, that the potatoes should be taken at 4*s.* for the 28 stone; I left every person to calculate for himself; I only meant to show that three acres and a half might send as much beef to market, from beans as from turnips.

10207. With these different species of food, did you give hay?—Only straw.

10208. And the same quantity of straw to all the four lots?—Yes; the lot that had the potatoes and meal, I allowed water to, because they did not thrive without water, about 10 Scotch pints a day.

10209. How did you give the potatoes?—Raw; at one time I competed for the premium of the Highland Society; I believe I was the first to determine that steaming was not an advantage, that the raw food rather fed better than the steamed food.

10210. Are not beasts fed upon raw potatoes apt to swell?—Yes; and therefore we dare not give them potatoes at all times.

10211. Does not steaming obviate that?—Yes, I think it does.

10212. How do you give the bean meal?—Crushed at the mill.

10213. In that rough state?—Yes.

10214. Sir *James Graham.*] What sort of price do you pay for your working horses?—My horses are not the best; I should imagine, for the average of my horses, 30*l.*

10215. Do you feed your horses much on straw?—The straw from beans; and when there is a push in the seed-time or Spring, we give them a little hay.

10216. Is any of the land you cultivate very tenacious strong clay?—Part of it.

10217. What is the deepest furrow?—I have ploughed it a foot deep with four horses.

10218. When you plough with four horses, do you plough with two two-horse ploughs following each other, or four in one?—Four in one; but we seldom do it, except when we come to a fallow break.

10219. *Chairman.*] Generally speaking, since in East Lothian rents have been accommodated to the price of corn by the fiars, is there any distress suffered by the farmer which you think within reach of legislative enactment; is there any thing which you think the Legislature could do to benefit your condition?—I do not see any thing that can be done.

10220. Nothing whatever occurs to you?—I do not see any thing; I think, if we can keep the field a little, it will accommodate itself, and that the farmer would be able to barter his bread for the broad cloth of England.

10221. The great difficulty was with respect to the rent, and that has now been adjusted by the conversion of it into a corn payment?—Yes, I think nearly perfectly, because at first, when it was taken out of money, we were not allowed to calculate 40*s.*; they took our quantity at 35*s.* which gave us a higher amount to pay; but in all new engagements the price is taken at about 10*s.* money a bushel of wheat.

10222. Then nothing occurs to you that the Legislature can do for you?—Nothing.

10223. Mr. *Cayley.*] You say you have paid no attention to the subject of banking, therefore your experience does not extend to that?—No, except keeping a short account with the bank.

10224. Supposing you had been a freeholder, and had bought a farm of 200 acres twenty years ago, and given £. 10,000 for it; what interest would that pay you now in the shape of rent?—I should receive, of course, a very low rate of interest at the present day, and I know many purchases made, that have been very ruinous to the purchasers.

Mr. *A. Howden.*

19 April 1836.

10225. Sir *James Graham.*] Would not the loss or profit upon any given purchase depend upon the judgment of the man who made it?—Yes, but mankind generally just follow the multitude, and it would seem as if they had followed it to do evil upon that occasion. But I know many purchases that were made, that now cannot be again re-sold without excessive loss.

10226. Is that peculiar to land; are there not many injudicious purchases made by all classes, in all circumstances?—I do not interfere much with other matters.

10227. Mr. *Cayley.*] Has that alteration in the value of property arisen from the fall in the price of agricultural produce?—I think that is one great reason.

10228. Do you think that the prices have fallen without any cause?—There must be a cause, if there is an effect.

10229. If the fall in price has arisen from any legislative enactment, then the best-judging man might have been deceived in his calculation?—I think so; he might have been misled by the legislature.

10230. *Chairman.*] You have spoken of some of the evils that resulted from the corn law of 1815; are you well satisfied with the present corn law of 1828?—It is a subject that I am not able to grapple with; but as far as I could form a judgment, I was pleased with this scheme when I saw it put in action; but now it has been of no benefit to the farmer the last three years, and I confess I should have preferred a moderate fixed duty; but it is a subject I am not qualified to enter upon.

10231. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] What has been the extent of the alteration with respect to the wages of labourers, comparing the amount they receive now with what they received at the close of the war?—When I commenced, the wages paid to stout men were from 10*d.* to 1*s.* a day, that was from 1792 to 1796; then they rose about 1805 to 2*s.*, and as high as 2*s.* 6*d.* a day; now they have sunk to 1*s.* 6*d.* a day.

10232. At what price per bushel is the present rate of labour calculated, is it at 7*s.* a bushel?—As near as may be.

10233. Do you estimate 7*s.* a bushel as the lowest price at which labour is fixed?—It is not fixed by wheat, it used to be a peck of oatmeal.

10234. Inasmuch as it is at all governed by the price of wheat, is 7*s.* the lowest price at which you calculate?—Yes.

Mercurii, 20° die Aprilis 1836.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Shaw Lefevre.	
Mr. Gordon.	Mr. Handley.
Mr. William Miles.	Mr. Wodehouse.
Mr. Robert Clive.	Mr. Young.
The Marquis of Chandos.	Mr. Anderson Pelham.
Mr. Loch.	Mr. Heathcote.
Mr. Bingham Baring.	Mr. Dunlop.
Mr. Sanford.	Sir Charles Burrell.

MR. SHAW LEFEVRE IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *John Brodie,* called in; and Examined.

Mr. *John Brodie.*

20 April 1836.

10235. *Chairman.*] WHERE do you reside?—At Amisfield Mains in the county of Haddington.

10236. Do you farm extensively in that county?—About 950 imperial acres.

10237. What is the nature of the soil upon your farm?—It is, part of it, dry turnip land, another part is loam upon a damp sub-soil, and there is part of it clay.

10238. Is it one farm or more?—Two farms, where I reside under the Earl of Wemys, and the other is the property of Lord Blantyre.

10239. Is the first farm all of one description of soil?—No, a mixed soil; there

Mr. *John Brodie.*

20 April 1836.

there are about 250 acres fit to grow turnips, and the other part we have to fallow once in six years.

10240. What proportion of stiff land and what of turnip land?—About 250 acres.

10241. What is the other farm?—It was exceedingly wet when I got it ten years ago, but by draining we have made a considerable part of it turnip land which never grew turnip before.

10242. Was that draining done entirely at your own expense?—I got 1,000*l.* from the proprietor out of the first five years rent, to drain and make additional buildings. This was calculated upon when I took the farm. When I gave in my offer, I stipulated to have 500*l.* for draining and improving; that offer was not accepted, but I was requested to make out a second offer, with a stipulation for an allowance of 200*l.* annually out of the first five years' rents. I calculated that I could afford to give twelve and a half quarters of wheat more of rent, and got the farm upon that offer.

10243. Then part of your rent is interest of money that has been spent in improving your farm?—Yes.

10244. Have you done any thing upon your own account independent of this?—Yes; I soon found that I had got all the money laid out, and that it would be necessary for me to continue the draining, even although it should be done at my own expense. In the meantime I lost my landlord, and the estate devolved upon a minor; and I soon found that I could not get any thing from his guardians for stone drains. I have since been allowed 200*l.* for tiles, but that does not half cover what I have laid out on tiles. Other small drains I have done with stones set up on edge, and I found on a hard sub-soil, and where the stones do not sink into the ground; but where there is sand, stones do not answer the purpose so well as tiles.

10245. Do you think the improvement that you have made yourself upon your farm in the way of draining has paid you?—I think it will pay me in the end; it has made a great improvement in the soil.

10246. You can grow turnips now where you could not grow them before?—Yes, I had about 50 acres of turnips last year, where before I could only grow small patches of them.

10247. Is your rent a corn rent or a money-rent?—The farm I have been draining is a corn-rent, the other farm is a money rent.

10248. Mr. *Miles.*] What soil is it which is now turnip land where it was not before?—It is generally loam, part on a sandy subsoil, and some of it a hard retentive subsoil.

10249. Mr. *Loch.*] Was it a clay soil above the subsoil or a loamy soil?—It is a loamy soil, the water was kept up by an impervious clay.

10250. How near are the drains to each other?—Thirty-six feet from each other in general.

10251. Then it is in alternate furrows?—Yes.

10252. What is the depth of the drain?—About two and a half feet.

10253. How much you do fill it up by the tiles, or above the stones set edgeways, do you fill stones above that again?—Yes, perhaps 14 inches from the bottom.

10254. What is the depth of the furrow?—We plough from seven to nine inches deep.

10255. Have you stirred the subsoil in this instance by any subsequent ploughing, or by what is known by the name of Smith of Dainston's plough?—No, I have never seen that practised.

10256. Have you trench-ploughed at all?—Not at all, all our ploughing is deep; we think it an advantage if we begin deep to continue so. Some people plough deep once in six years, but I think it is the best way to begin and continue deep.

10257. What is the expense per acre of draining according to the system you have followed?—If you drain with tiles and flats and alternate furrows, it costs about 4*l.* 10*s.* the imperial acre; and if you do it with stone, it is about half of that, but the cartage of the stones is not included in that; the cartage would cost 20*s.*

10258. Then it is nearly 4*l.* an acre?—Yes.

10259. Mr. *Miles.*] What size are the drain-stones?—Perhaps 6 inches broad;

broad; but all of that size are set up on edge, closely packed together in the bottom of the drain, and the small stones are put upon the top.

10260. It is a sort of slaty stone?—Yes, we prefer it.

10261. Mr. *Loch.*] What depth is left between the bottom of the furrow and the top of the drain?—Rather more than 10 inches.

10262. The depth of the tile and the stones and the drain together is 14 inches?—If it is a sandy subsoil, we do not use the stones above the tiles.

10263. You fill it up, either in one way or another, to the depth of 14 inches?—If we are draining through a sandy subsoil, it requires nothing but a very little straw above the tiles; if a hard subsoil, it requires either to be gravel or small stones, or the switchings of hedges.

10264. *Chairman.*] Is not a sandy subsoil liable to wash into the drains?—We put a little straw above the tiles.

10265. Mr. *Loch.*] Then when you fill it up with stones, it is 14 inches altogether?—Yes.

10266. Had there been any draining done upon the farm previously, according to the old system of deep draining upon the land?—The money stipulated for in the lease was all expended, except about 200 *l.* in deep drains across the fields and flood-water drains.

10267. The money that was stipulated for was laid out upon the old system of cutting cross drains?—Yes; some of them very deep, and there were several places where flood-water came through the middle of fields in open ditches. I got those closed in by building upon the sides, and I had stones put below them to prevent the water running away the sides, and covered them with large stones above, and those drains were in general about 18 inches high in the sides, and from 14 to 16 inches wide. Those were very expensive, and they ran away with a great part of the money. We began with 6 feet drains; it was the custom at that time to cut deep to get into the water; but we did not make the fields sufficiently dry for carrying turnips and eating off a part with sheep.

10268. Are the ditches well scoured round the fields?—Yes.

10269. What depth are they?—They are three feet deep, with a good slope upon the side, perhaps five feet wide upon the top.

10270. *Chairman.*] You said you had a farm of 500 imperial acres, do you farm that entirely upon a six course?—Yes.

10271. Can you state what portion of your farm you have under fallow every year, and what portion you have under wheat, and what portion under other crops?—The first in rotation is fallow and turnips; the next wheat, and perhaps a little barley after the turnips; the third is pastured grass; the fourth is oats; the fifth is drilled peas and beans, mixed in the proportion of four bushels of beans to one of peas; the potatoes are generally planted upon a portion of this break.

10272. Do you put the potatoes upon what was the barley break as well as the wheat?—Yes, upon the dry land.

10273. What after the beans?—Wheat upon the whole.

10274. Mr. *Sanford.*] Do you grow any grass seed?—We cut very little grass, it is generally pastured with sheep.

10275. Mr. *Loch.*] What do you do for hay?—We use very little hay; a small portion is railed off to cut green for the horses; we feed them in winter on straw of the beans and peas, which is very nutritious when well got.

10276. The first year, how much in fallow and how much in turnips?—Perhaps forty acres in one of the breaks may be turnips, and the remainder summer fallow. I divide the farm into six breaks, as nearly equal as possible.

10277. In the next year, what proportion in wheat, and what in barley?—All that has been summer fallowed is sown with wheat, and in a good season part of the land which was in turnips is sown with wheat, if not it is sown with barley.

10278. How much of it is wheat, and how much barley?—Two-thirds in wheat, or more, and the remainder in barley.

10279. Mr. *Miles.*] You put in spring wheat?—Yes.

10280. Mr. *Loch.*] What time do you like to get the wheat into the ground?—We sow fallow with wheat about the end of September, and the bean land as soon after that as possible. If the land is dry and in good order it is very well, if it is sown any time before the end of November.

Mr. *John Brodie.*

20 April 1836.

10281. As to the grass, how much do you mow?—Perhaps 20 acres, perhaps not above one-sixth.

10282. You have about 80 acres of grass altogether?—Yes.

10283. Then the oats are about 80 acres?—Yes; I have tried barley after grass, but I have given it up.

10284. *Chairman.*] Do you get your oats in with once ploughing upon the grass?—Yes.

10285. Mr. *Loch.*] What proportion of the 80 acres is beans and peas and potatoes?—We do not plant any potatoes for sale, they are all used for fattening cattle, except those planted for the servants and perhaps family use.

10286. And then the last year it is wheat entirely?—Yes.

10287. *Chairman.*] What is the produce per acre upon an acre of wheat?—About three quarters five bushels to the imperial acre.

10288. What is the average produce of your oats per imperial acre?—Six quarters the imperial acre.

10289. What is the produce per acre of barley upon the imperial acre?—About 43 bushels the imperial acre.

10290. Can you state the acreable produce of the beans upon your farm?—About three quarters, two bushels.

10291. How many bushels of potatoes do you grow upon an acre?—About 34 bushels.

10292. As to the expenditure upon your farm, how many horses do you keep?—Generally a pair of horses for every 62½ English acres.

10293. What amount of labour do you employ upon the same extent of land?—For every six ploughmen I think it requires four labourers; I have made a note of the expense of working a 300 Scotch acre farm, or 375 imperial. Six ploughmen and twelve work horses, 80*l.* for a man and horses; 480*l.* four other men 25*l.* each, 100*l.*; women and boys employed through the year, 80*l.*; harvest work, 160*l.*; total, 820*l.* The above is calculated for working on a rotation of six, but if the grass is allowed to remain two years, the establishment would be enough for a farm containing 50 acres more of land, with only a shepherd in addition for managing the flock.

10294. Upon your farm of 500 acres, do you keep sheep?—We graze the two farms together.

10295. Have you any poor rates?—Yes, being in the parish of Haddington we have more than is customary in other parts of the county. It costs me, as tenant upon the two farms, about 36*l.* a year.

10296. And that in consequence of the old people coming to live in the towns?—Yes.

10297. What does your poor rate amount to?—About 36*l.* in the year upon the two farms.

10298. Does your landlord pay an equal amount?—Yes, it is divided between the landlord and the tenant.

10299. What does the statute duty amount to?—About 20 guineas upon the two farms.

10300. Are there any other local taxes?—None else.

10301. Mr. *Loch.*] Do the turnpikes bear heavily upon you?—Yes.

10302. What do you pay?—In East Lothian we pay 3*d.* for a single horse-cart, and 6*d.* for a double one. In Mid Lothian the carts are weighed, and seldom less than 6*d.* for a single cart, sometimes 1*s.*

10303. *Chairman.*] You happen to live near the great North road?—Yes, within a quarter of a mile of it.

10304. Is your county much intersected by turnpikes?—Yes, a good deal, most of the roads have turnpikes.

10305. Then the quantity of toll amounts to a considerable tax?—A considerable sum, but the roads are very much improved since we had the turnpikes.

10306. Mr. *Loch.*] Then you think you gain by the improvement of the roads, though you pay a high tax for them?—Yes, certainly.

10307. *Chairman.*] Under what management are the roads?—Under the trustees of the district.

10308. Have you any account of what the turnpikes cost you in a year?—No, I have no calculation of that kind.

10309. Are all the turnpike-roads in the county managed by one board of trustees?

trustees?—There are trustees for roads in the different districts; some of those come very near each other, and we sometimes pay two tolls in less than three miles of road, when we come under a different trust; it was proposed to remedy this, but it was found that if altered in the collection, the money could not be wanted, and there would be a necessity for raising the toll upon carts, to make up any deficiency.

10310. You stated that the one farm was let at a corn-rent, and the other at a money-rent; which do you prefer?—The corn.

10311. What is the money-rent per acre?—The rent upon Lord Wemys's farm is 3*l.* 15*s.* per Scotch acre, or 3*l.* the Imperial acre.

10312. When was that money-rent fixed?—In 1820.

10313. Has there been any deduction made from your rent since 1820?—In the year 1827 I got 175*l.* of abatement; prices were unusually low, and we had also a miserable crop of wheat; in 1828 we had also a bad crop of wheat, but the prices rose, and the average was 70*s.* 5*d.*; but for that crop I got no abatement.

10314. Notwithstanding those abatements, you would have preferred a corn-rent to this money-rent?—It would have been very much for my benefit.

10315. What was the abatement?—In 1829 I got 325*l.* and in 1830 the same.

10316. What is the whole amount of your rent?—Fifteen hundred pounds a year. In 1831 I had 10 per cent. abatement, 150*l.*; and in all the subsequent years 150*l.*: when I offered for this farm I offered a corn-rent for it, and I was persuaded by a friend who was at the same time the adviser of Lord Wemys, who let the farm for his Lordship, to offer a money-rent. I imagined, from the arguments he used, that he had influence enough with Lord Wemys, if the times should alter, to make him convert it into a wheat-rent; and I converted the money into wheat, at the average of the two former crops of 1818 and 1819, at which average the 425 quarters amounted to nearly 1,500*l.* and I made it the 1,500*l.*

10317. How many quarters would that represent?—Four hundred and twenty-seven quarters of wheat, at 70*s.* 3*d.*

10318. Have you any calculation, to show what would have been the difference of your rent, if your farm had been taken at a corn-rent instead of a money-rent?—Yes.

[*The Witness read the same, as follows:*]

When the Farm of Amisfield Mains was taken in 1820 two offers were made; one, a given quantity of Wheat, the other was the supposed value of that Wheat, assuming the average of the two preceding years as a data, and below is a comparative view of the result.

CROP.	RENT.			ABATEMENTS.			OFFER OF WHEAT FIARS.				———		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.			s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1822 - -	1,500	-	-	-	-	-	425	quarters at	41	$3\frac{6}{12}$	877	9	-
1823 - -	1,500	-	-	-	-	-	425	,,	55	10	1,186	9	2
1824 - -	1,500	-	-	-	-	-	425	,,	63	3	1,344	11	3
1825 - -	1,500	-	-	-	-	-	425	,,	64	$9\frac{6}{12}$	1,376	16	5
1826 - -	1,500	-	-	-	-	-	425	,,	59	1	1,255	10	5
1827 - -	1,500	-	-	175	-	-	425	,,	48	$10\frac{11}{12}$	1,039	6	8
1828 - -	1,500	-	-	-	-	-	425	,,	70	$5\frac{10}{12}$	1,497	16	8
1829 - -	1,500	-	-	325	-	-	425	,,	54	$11\frac{8}{12}$	1,168	3	3
1830 - -	1,500	-	-	325	-	-	425	,,	59	$-\frac{11}{12}$	1,273	1	8
1831 - -	1,500	-	-	150	-	-	425	,,	58	$7\frac{6}{12}$	1,245	15	6
1832 - -	1,500	-	-	150	-	-	425	,,	50	$3\frac{8}{12}$	1,068	19	10
1833 - -	1,500	-	-	150	-	-	425	,,	52	$7\frac{8}{12}$	1,118	11	6
1834 - -	1,500	-	-	150	-	-	425	,,	42	$1\frac{10}{12}$	895	14	11
1835 - -	1,500	-	-	150	-	-	425	,,	36	7	777	7	11
£.	21,000	-	-	1,575	-	-	-	-	-	-	16,125	14	2

10319. Your other farm was taken at a corn-rent?—Yes, that farm is about five bushels and a half per acre.

10320. When did you take that farm?—In the year 1826.

10321. Will you state how you proceeded to make an offer for this farm?—For that purpose I estimated what it would be worth an acre in money, and converted that sum into wheat, at 64*s.* a quarter; the rent is regulated

Mr. *John Brodie.*

20 April 1836.

by the fiars of the county, with a maximum of 66 *s.* 8 *d.* a quarter, and 48 *s.* minimum.

10322. Have you any minimum?—Forty-eight shillings.

10323. Mr. *Loch.*] Will you explain how you proceeded; when you looked over the farm, you assumed that wheat was likely to be at a certain price; then you assumed that the land was worth, at that price, so much an acre?—Yes.

10324. Then you converted the whole probable produce of the farm into wheat at that amount?—I calculated how much produce I would have yearly from the farm, reckoning that the spring-sown crops, turnips and grass, would pay the ordinary expenses on the farm, and leave a surplus for interest on the sum required for stocking the farm, and that the wheat should pay the rent, and also leave something for risk and profit.

10325. Suppose your offer had been in money-rent, what money-rent would you have offered under those circumstances; would it have been as much, or less in proportion than your corn rent?—It would have come to a great deal more money.

10326. Supposing you had offered a fixed money-rent, would you have made a lower valuation in your own mind than you did when you knew that you were likely to benefit if a fall of prices took place?—I think I calculated wheat at 64 *s.* a quarter at that time.

10327. Supposing there had been a fixed money-rent, would you have calculated at 64 *s.* or something less?—Perhaps something less, perhaps at 60 *s.*

10328. Mr. *Sanford.*] What should you calculate at the present moment, supposing you were to take the farm at a money-rent?—Perhaps 52 *s.* a quarter; that would be high enough I suspect too.

10329. Mr. *Heathcote.*] Do you consider that, by the very high cultivation which has gone on in the Lothians for a long period of time, the land is in any way worn out?—I do not think it.

10330. Mr. *Loch.*] Were you examined before the former Committee on agriculture?—Yes, in 1821.

10331. Have there been any improvements made in the East Lothian since 1821?—Yes, the furrow draining, in my opinion, is the greatest improvement that ever took place in East Lothian; foreign manures have also tended much to increase production.

10332. From what period has that taken place?—There has been a good deal of draining for ten or twelve years; but the furrow-draining has only been common about the half of that time.

10333. Has the difficulty of the times rather added to it, by causing a necessity for greater exertions?—In newly-taken farms the landlord has often assisted in the drainage; in other cases people saw the improvement, and they have gone on with it at their own expense. But it is such a permanent improvement, that the proprietors in many instances have assisted the tenants in it.

10334. Then, the low prices have not of late years stopped the improvements in East Lothian?—With some farmers it has done so, because many were not able to keep their farms at a money-rent; and if the proprietors in general had not converted their rents into wheat, there would have been a great many more failures. The conversion of money-rent into wheat, was the saving of the tenantry.

10335. Where the tenantry have been met with liberality on the part of the landlords, the improvements have continued to go on?—I think so.

10336. In your opinion, what has the low price of wheat, that has lately existed in this country, been owing to?—To the great crops.

10337. Is that from improved cultivation or the state of the season?—The seasons have materially tended to it, I think. If we had had such seasons as there were in 1827 to 1831, both inclusive, the difference in the crops of wheat would have been very little, because no cultivation could have prevented the damage done by the fly and mildew.

10338. Then, it is entirely owing to the better seasons you think?—I think so.

10339. Is it your opinion that there has been less wheat sown last Autumn, than in several years previously?—Yes.

10340. To what extent?—Perhaps a tenth, or in some instances more. There has been very little wheat sown this Spring, owing to the bad season: barley has been paying better than wheat, which is another reason.

59

Mr. *John Brodie.*

20 April 1836.

10341. Mr. *Sanford.*] Have you yourself sown less wheat this year?—Yes, I have; I have sown no wheat in the Spring, except 18 acres after fallow.

10342. Mr. *Loch.*] Is it your opinion that wheat will fall to 36*s.* again in the ensuing season?—I hope not.

10343. Do you see any likelihood of it?—I think there is no chance of it.

10344. What was it selling for in Haddington-market when you left Scotland?—About 50*s.* for the best.

10345. What is the condition of the tenantry generally in East Lothian, where the landlords have met their difficulties by converting the fixed rents into corn-rents?—They have been doing very well this year, where there is no minimum; and for the last four years, ever since 1832, they have been doing very well. They have had good crops, and if they got low prices, they had only a low rent to pay out of an abundant crop.

10346. *Chairman.*] You prefer a corn-rent with a maximum without a minimum?—Yes.

10347. Mr. *Loch.*] In the distress you alluded to, as having existed previously, is it your opinion that it could have been met in any other way, than by the landlords meeting the difficulties of the tenant; in your opinion, could Parliament have done anything to relieve those difficulties?—It is not my opinion that Parliament could have done anything. I think, from experience, that we are hardly able to keep up the prices, and the corn-rent seems to me to be the very thing which saved the tenantry.

10348. Is there anything, in your opinion, that Parliament could now do to assist the tenants?—Nothing, that I know of; unless any improvement could be made in the present corn-law, to make it more perfect.

10349. What are the defects of the corn-law, that strike you?—I am not able to speak upon that, but I am of opinion that if the averages were taken from the sales of the growers, it would be a safer thing than taken from the purchasers, because the same wheat may be returned five or six times. If the sales of the growers were taken, it could only be returned once, in the same way as our fiars.

10350. *Chairman.*] In striking those fiars, is not the same grain returned more than once if it is sold more than once within the county?—Never.

10351. Supposing you sold a quantity of grain to a miller, and the miller sold it to somebody else, would not you all be summoned before the sheriff to give evidence as to your sales, and would not all those sales enter into the average?—No, the first sale only.

10352. Mr. *Loch.*] Does it include all the sales made within the county?—What is delivered within the county, and for ready money.

10353. Supposing you were to send a large quantity of wheat to the London market, would that enter into the calculation?—No.

10354. You would send to the London market of course the best wheat that your farm produced?—I would send it to the best market; but there has been very little wheat sent from Scotland to London of late.

10355. If it goes to Edinburgh is it included in the fiars?—It is not included.

10356. Then the best quality of the wheat does not affect the fiar's prices?—I think it might be improved by taking off the difference of cartage and the extremity of the county next to the place of delivery.

10357. But in point of fact it is not taken in?—It is not.

10358. Is there not this risk in the mode of striking the fiars, that the persons who are summoned for the purpose of giving evidence before the sheriff are persons who are interested that the prices for the fiars should be struck as low as possible, in order that their rents may be as low as possible?—They are put upon oath, and their prices read over in open court; and very few people can sell their grain at more than the fiar's price, which is a proof that they are fairly taken.

10359. Have you heard that it is alleged that it may have that effect?—I have; and I have heard it alleged that the fiars are struck too early. When I entered to Lord Wemys's farm I purchased my predecessor's crop at a given quantity of wheat at the average fiars. In consequence of the prices getting up a little immediately after harvest, and afterwards falling, the price that I paid was 60*s.* 4*d.* a quarter, and I sold a great deal of that wheat, after it came to be summer, at 50*s.*

Mr. *John Brodie.*

20 April 1836.

10360. Do you know anything of the cultivation of other parts of Scotland except the Lothians?—Yes, I have frequently been in Berwickshire, Roxburghshire and Mid-Lothian.

10361. Do you know the improvements that have been made in the West of Scotland latterly by tile draining?—I have heard of it, but I have never been there.

10362. Do you know anything of the cultivation of any part of England?—Very little, except travelling South, when I was here before, and now.

10363. What appears to be the state of the clay lands in England?—They appear rather behind in the North part.

10364. Are they in a state to pay much rent?—No, I think not; the wet land can pay very little.

10365. Does it appear much exhausted?—Yes; very much neglected.

10366. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] Is that from the want of draining?—Yes.

10367. Mr. *Heathcote.*] What is the condition of the labouring classes in your part of the country?—They are all employed; the wages are not so high as in manufacturing towns, and I am satisfied that if it had not been for the draining, which has employed the working classes all the winter as well as the summer, they would have been very poorly off; they are all employed.

10368. Are not almost all the necessaries of life much cheaper now than at former periods?—They are.

10369. Have the wages of labour much fallen?—During the war they got 15*s.* a week, and now 9*s.* is the common wages.

10370. Therefore in comparing the wages of labour with the price of provisions, the condition of the labourer is much better than it was?—They themselves and their families seem to be very comfortable.

10371. Do not you hear less complaints than usual among the agricultural labourers?—There are less complaints with us.

10372. There are in Scotland certain assessments sometimes made for the poor; have they increased in your part of the country?—So far that although the price of grain has fallen very much, the assessments continue nearly the same.

10373. They are not increased; but they are not lowered?—They are not lowered, although the price of wheat is only 36*s.* 7*d.*, and about eleven years ago it was about 66*s.* The assessments are the same; we have more poor. Wherever they are well treated they flock to that place.

10374. Upon the whole, your opinion is, that the condition of the labouring classes is good at present, and better than it has been?—Yes.

10375. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] As compared with when they were receiving 15*s.* a week, are they better off now receiving 9*s.* than they were when they were receiving 15*s.*?—I think fully as comfortable, except at the end of the war, when the price of grain fell sooner than labour.

10376. Are they paid in kind or in money?—The labourers are paid in money.

10377. Altogether?—Generally; some yearly servants get the same as the ploughmen, that is so much grain, but in general they have 9*s.* a week.

10378. When they are paid in grain, they are paid by the price of oats?—Yes, by the price of oats, and barley, and beans.

10379. Not of wheat?—They get very little wheat; but now they sell their grain and buy wheat, they find wheat cheaper.

10380. *Chairman.*] What you term labourers in Scotland, to whom you pay money wages, are the persons you employ part of the year?—We employ some labourers all the year, and take in others occasionally; but it is a good thing to have them upon money wages, so that then you have an opportunity of giving them work by the piece, which is sometimes a cheaper and more expeditious way of doing it.

10381. But the ploughmen are all paid in kind?—Yes.

10382. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] You said that in 1826, in taking your farm, 66*s.* 8*d.* was considered as the maximum, and 48*s.* as the minimum; upon what principle was 48*s.* fixed as the minimum?—As a security for the landlord getting a certain living from his property.

10383. Was it upon the supposition that the 48*s.* was the lowest at which wheat could be cultivated with advantage in Scotland?—No; I think the proprietor imagined that it might be lower than 48*s.*, it had been lower in the year 1822.

10384. What is the lowest price at which you would say that wheat could be cultivated throughout Scotland generally?—That is a question that I could not answer.

10385. Could it be cultivated at lower than 6 *s.* a bushel?—It would appear so, at least for the last four years it does not average so much, but that is in consequence of abundant crops.

10386. Could you pay your present rent at 6 *s.* a bushel?—With the present crops I could.

10387. Could you pay your present rent at 6 *s.* a bushel upon a fair average of produce?—I think that is rather a small price at an average produce.

10388. *Chairman.*] But your rent would bear a proportion to it, would it not?—It would.

10389. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] But applying it to money-rent?—Then I could not live upon it, it is ruinous.

10390. *Chairman.*] That is because the money-rent is calculated at too high a rate?—Yes.

10391. Mr. *Miles.*] Can you state the expense of cultivation of each crop per acre, taking labour, seed, and all the different expenses?—I think it is not fair to take the expense upon the wheat crop alone, because part of it goes into all the crops during the rotation; the only way is to calculate the expense of all the crops in the rotation.

10392. Will you have the goodness to state the expense of all the crops in the rotation?—I have stated that the ordinary expenses upon a 375 acre farm might be about 820 *l.*, I omitted the seed, which may be for seed wheat 50 *l.*, barley 7 *l.*, grass seeds 30 *l.*, oats 28 *l.*, beans 32 *l.*, potatoes 15 *l.*, and for additional manure 100 *l.*; labour 820 *l.*, seed 130 *l.*, manure 100 *l.*, in all 1,050 *l.*

10393. Mr. *Loch.*] What would you suppose was the amount of capital required for the purpose of undertaking the management of your farm at the time you took it?—At that time it was generally calculated that it took 10 *l.* a Scotch acre.

10394. What should you say might be required now to enter upon a farm?—From seven to eight pounds a Scotch acre.

10395. What was the quantity of stock that you had upon your two farms?—I have 14 pairs of horses upon the two farms; 90 to 100 fatting cattle, 240 or 60 ewes for fat lambs, and as many young sheep. The cattle are generally bought in the summer and autumn months, and sold fat out of the feeding closes during the winter or beginning of summer. The sheep are almost all changed every year and sold to the butcher.

10396. Mr. *Heathcote.*] Do you consider that taking off the duty on foreign clover seed would be an advantage to you?—Yes.

10397. What would be the amount of advantage?—From 14 *l.* to 20 *l.* a year.

10398. You do not grow any?—No, our climate is not suitable.

10399. But that, however, would be an injury to those those that grow it in England?—Yes.

10400. Mr. *Miles.*] Have you used Dutch or English seed?—English seed generally sells for a higher price, but it is very immaterial.

10401. But it is preferred?—It is preferred.

10402. Mr. *Loch.*] At what time of the year did you enter upon your farm?—Lord Wemys's farm is at Christmas, but I am obliged to leave the sixth part of the farm to my successor on the 26th of May, previous to leaving, as a fallow break.

10403. To whom does the last crop of wheat belong?—All the growing crop will belong to me as out-going tenant, and I have all the grass upon the farm, but generally there is so much grass left to the in-coming tenant, and a fallow break for which he generally pays the value, or the rent at which it is let.

10404. Then the outgoing tenant gets the whole of the crop, what becomes of the straw?—It is left upon the land; the farmer takes away the corn and leaves the straw.

10405. Then that straw belongs to the landlord?—Yes.

10406. The straw that is made into muck?—That is the straw of the previous crop; the tenant is paid for that by the landlord.

10407. And then the landlord settles that with the incoming tenant?—Yes.

Mr. *John Brodie.*

20 April 1836.

10408. Eighteen hundred and twenty was the year in which you took one of your farms; who had it previously?—A cousin of mine.

10409. Do you know the rent previously?—I think about 1,300*l.*

10410. Then you paid 200*l.* a year additional rent?—I cannot speak exactly, but it was more than a hundred a year additional.

10411. What was the state of the rents during the war, in East Lothian?—They were very high then; land has generally let for a bushel of wheat for 10*s.* of the former rent.

10412. Can you state what the rents were before the war?—No.

10413. You do not happen to know whether they are higher or lower than they were previous to the war?—They are higher than they were previous to the war, from the better cultivation.

10414. Mr. *Sanford.*] Has there been any flax or hemp cultivated in your neighbourhood?—Very little; at one time it was customary to grow flax for the servants, but that is given up, they get money instead, which is much better for them.

10415. Is the land calculated for the growth of flax?—I cannot answer that question; it is not reckoned a profitable crop; it deteriorates the land, and leaves nothing to improve it.

10416. Mr. *Loch.*] Have you drained any portion of your very worst clay land?—Yes.

10417. Is that the land which is now capable of bearing turnips, which formerly was not capable of bearing turnips?—The worst clay land is not suitable to bearing turnips unless it had more drains than I spoke of. It would require one in every 18 feet, and I do not know whether that would be sufficient, it would be so much hurt by taking off the turnips.

10418. What is the particular improvement that has occurred in consequence of your draining your clay land in the way you have done?—The plants thrive better; we have heavier crops, and they are more easily kept clean.

10419. Mr. *Cayley.*] Do you think that upon the average of seasons the money you have laid out in draining will remunerate you?—It is done with that expectation.

10420. Do you think it will be profitable to cultivate that land at 40*s.* for wheat?—I do not know; not with ordinary crops.

10421. If the price of wheat remains at 40*s.* even if the draining answers your fullest expectations, do you think it will be profitable to cultivate that land?—If at a wheat rent I can cultivate it, but not with bad crops.

10422. Upon an average of years?—Upon such crops as I have given in as the average, I can do it.

10423. Have you calculated your crops upon the last three or four years?—Not upon the last three or four years, but upon the last nine years.

10424. Is your clay land the least profitable land to cultivate?—Yes.

10425. Can you imagine a price at which the clay land would cease to be profitable to cultivate?—Yes.

10426. What would be the price that you would name?—It would all depend upon the season.

10427. Taking the average of seasons?—Perhaps 40*s.* is as low as it could be cultivated at.

10428. In Scotland?—Yes.

10429. The clay land is a very uncertain kind of land, and is very much exposed to the fluctuations of seasons, and taking all those fluctuations you would say 40*s.* is the lowest price upon the average at which that clay land would pay, even with the improved draining?—I should think so, but it is not a question that I can very well answer.

10430. Mr. *Loch.*] Even to give an opinion upon the subject?—No.

10431. Mr. *Cayley.*] As a farmer you can calculate what price would pay you upon the clay land?—I certainly could, but I could not say how low prices might run, and yet cultivate with a profit.

10432. You have never calculated at what lowness of price the clay land would cease to be profitable?—No.

10433. *Chairman.*] Supposing there were 100 acres of clay land that you were going to take, how many bolls of wheat would you give per acre?—A great

A great deal depends upon the quality of the land; there are some very good clay lands, and some that will hardly pay the expense of cultivation.

10434. Mr. *Cayley.*] What caused the farmers of Scotland and the landlords of Scotland to come to the system of corn rent?—The uncertainty of the price.

10435. Was it the beginning of that great decline of price which has taken place within the last 20 years?—That was the beginning of it.

10436. In fact, the tenant found that he was losing so much money by the money-rent, that he got the system of corn-rents as a remedy?—The corn-rents commenced about 20 years ago; the late Earl of Hopetoun saw the risk which the tenants ran, and he made it a rule to let all his land by corn rents, and that has more or less been the system of letting land in East Lothian ever since.

10437. Taking the tenantry of Haddingtonshire or of East Lothian, do you think they are possessed of as much capital now as they were in 1820?—No.

10438. Then they have been cultivating for the last 14 years at a loss?—Yes.

10439. And that in consequence of the decline in the price of agricultural produce?—Yes.

10440. What do you think led to that decline in agricultural produce?—I do not think that I can answer that question.

10441. To the best of your ability, what is your impression of what led to that decline of price?—The supply of grain being greater than the demand.

10442. Do you recollect the price being high in 1817, 1818 and 1819, and then falling in 1820, 1821 and 1822?—Yes.

10443. Do you think there was any great and sudden increase of the produce at that time?—There must have been some cause.

10444. Do you remember the rise in price in 1823, 1824 and 1825?—Yes.

10445. Then there was a great diminution in the supply then according to your view?—The demand had been greater for it.

10446. What led to that increased demand?—I am not able to say.

10447. Do you recollect the period of the war?—Yes.

10448. Prices remained pretty high then?—Yes.

10449. Was there great deficiency of supply during that period?—I think so, there was more required.

10450. For what purpose?—For Government stores.

10451. Did those stores go out of the kingdom?—There would be a greater waste if those people had been eating their own provisions, less would have been required.

10452. You think it is a necessary consequence that there should be a higher range of price during war?—Yes, I think so.

10453. Do you think there has been any other cause in operation which produced the rise in price during the war, and the fall subsequent to the war?—I cannot answer that question.

10454. You have 1*l.* notes in Scotland?—Yes.

10455. How do you like them?—Very well.

10456. How would you like to have them taken away?—We do very well with them, I should not like any alteration.

10457. If they do well for you, do not you think they would do well for your brother farmers in England?—I do not know.

10458. You would not like to part with them?—No.

10459. What is the advantage of them?—They are more easily carried than gold.

10460. Do you think they are easier to lend; do you think the banker can lend them more easily than gold?—Perhaps he can.

10461. And if he can lend them more easily, the farmer can get accommodation more easily?—I should think so.

10462. Do you ever apply for a sovereign?—When I have occasion for it.

10463. Is it the system generally to apply for gold to the banks?—I do not think it is.

10464. Do not you think that the bankers in Scotland in some degree act upon that conviction, that there will be no gold applied for?—I cannot say.

10465. If they do so act, and gold is not applied for, cannot they lend in one-pound notes easier than in sovereigns?—Perhaps they can.

10466. And it is more profitable to do so?—Yes, it is very likely; I think you seem to understand it much better than I do.

Mr. *John Brodie.*

20 April 1836.

10467. Mr. *Sanford.*] Are the bankers in Scotland liberal in their accommodation to the agricultural interest?—Wherever a farmer has good credit, he has plenty of accommodation.

10468. Can those who are of a doubtful credit get money?—I should suppose not.

10469. Mr. *Cayley.*] Do the bankers lend more easily now than they did during the war?—I cannot say.

10470. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] Do you recollect that, when the measure for doing away one-pound notes in England was first introduced, it was intended to apply it to Scotland also?—Yes.

10471. Did not that create an alarm in Scotland generally?—I think it did.

10742. Do you think that, if that measure had been carried into effect in Scotland as it was in England, it would have produced a very general influence upon all the mercantile transactions of Scotland?—I am not able to answer that.

10473. Do not you think it must have had a great effect upon the mercantile transactions of Scotland, from one end of it to the other, if they had been placed upon the same system as England?—I cannot say.

10474. Mr. *Miles.*] Have you ever turned your mind to this subject?—Very little.

10475. Mr. *Loch.*] You would have no objection to sovereigns in place of bank notes, if you could get them?—None at all.

10476. Have you limed your farms at all?—I have limed the farm that I got upon a corn-rent almost entirely.

10477. What has it cost you?—It cost me a great deal of money at the first; it cost me above 7*l.* the Imperial acre; I limed 250 acres during the first two years, which cost me that sum, including cartage.

10478. That was entirely out of your own pocket?—Yes.

10479. How much have you limed since?—I have limed the remainder of the farm since, except about eight acres, which my predecessor had limed very copiously.

10480. How many acres altogether have you limed?—About 350 or 360 acres.

10481. At the rate of 7*l.* an acre?—Lime fell after the first two years; I was able to draw it with my own carts, and it then cost me about 4*l.* an acre.

10482. Including the cartage?—No, the cartage would amount to half that more; that would be about 6*l.*

10483. Mr. *Cayley.*] Do you apply lime to clay land peculiarly, or to all soils?—Yes, to all soils.

10484. What do you conceive to be the peculiar advantage of the lime?—It meliorates the soil, makes it easier wrought, and carry heavier crops of every kind.

10485. Have you ever considered the cause why it does so?—I have considered that it improves the soil, and enables me to get better crops.

10486. The loam does not want improving; that is friable enough already?—It carries better crops after liming.

10487. Is not it the effect of lime that it developes any inherent vegetable matter there may be in the soil?—I think so.

10488. If lime be applied to a soil that is already impoverished, and where all the vegetable matter has been exhausted, the virtue of the lime would cease?—You must have vegetable matter in the soil to have the full benefit of the lime.

10489. Do not you think that the way in which lime operates is not as a manure; but in clay land it pulverizes it, and it has the power of developing any inherent vegetable matter in the soil, and not as a manure itself?—Yes.

10490. Mr. *Heathcote.*] Do you find it equally beneficial in all soils?—Yes.

10491. Do you find it acts equally well upon stiff strong clay as upon other soils?—Yes, it operates very well upon clay.

10492. Mr. *Clive.*] Do you consider it a permanent manure in its effects?—Yes.

10493. What period does it take before it wants it again?—Thirty or forty years.

10494. Mr. *Pelham.*] Do you find that a good deal depends upon putting the lime into the ground as soon as possible, so as not to let it be exposed to the air?—I have never found any bad effect from that; but the more intimately you can mix it with the soil the better.

Mr. *John Brodie.*

20 April 1836.

10495. Do not you think that the exposure to the air, and perhaps wet would take away a great deal of the good effect of the lime?—I never felt that, except that it is very difficult to mix it equally well with the soil. As soon as it is properly slacked, the sooner it is put into the ground the better.

10496. Mr. *Miles.*] And that depends upon the temperature?—Yes, as soon as it is properly slacked it is put into the ground, and it should be well wrought into the ground. If it is not well mixed, some parts get an over dose, and that destroys vegetation.

10497. Mr. *Heathcote.*] Do you ever manure grass land with lime?—We sometimes lime it upon grass; but it ought to lie two or three years afterwards before it is ploughed.

10498. Do you use soot as a manure?—Very little with us.

10499. Mr. *Loch.*] Do you use bones to any extent?—To a great extent in East Lothian, upon the light lands; rape upon the clay lands. The way I generally use it is, to apply a half portion of the farm-yard manure and a half portion of the rape along with it.

10500. Mr. *Baring.*] How small do you break the bones?—Generally pretty small; they are used for turnips generally, and we sow them with a drill machine in the furrows, immediately below the turnips.

10501. Mr. *Heathcote.*] Do you use sea-weed in your part of the county?—On the coast side.

10502. And with great advantage?—With great advantage.

Mr. *David Walker*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *David Walker.*

10503. *Chairman.*] WHERE do you reside?—In Aberdeen, in Scotland.

10504. What is your occupation?—Land-surveyor and land-valuer.

10505. Do you occupy any land yourself?—Yes, I occupy a farm of about 220 acres.

10506. Is that in the neighbourhood of Aberdeen?—About twelve miles from Aberdeen, in the county of Kincardine.

10507. Are you well acquainted with the state of the tenantry in Aberdeenshire?—I am.

10508. Are they principally upon corn-rents or upon money-rents?—Partly both.

10509. Has the condition of the tenantry in the county of Aberdeen improved or not within the last three or four years?—I think it has improved within the last three years.

10510. Does that observation apply equally to those that hold upon a corn-rent and those upon a money-rent?—It applies to both; but I think more to those that pay money-rents, in consequence of the increased price of cattle.

10511. What is the nature of the soil in that county?—What we call turnip soil, light land.

10512. What are the crops principally grown upon it?—Oats, bear and barley; very little wheat.

10513. Bear is a coarse description of barley?—It is.

10514. It is used for malting as well as barley?—It is.

10515. Do the tenants usually occupy the farms under leases?—Under leases, generally of nineteen years endurance.

10516. What are the rotations of crops upon their farms?—The general rotation is five years or seven years; the five years consist of turnips, potatoes and other green crops, succeeded by bear and barley, with grass two years, and then oats, and then turnips and potatoes.

10517. Mr. *Loch.*] What is the seven years shift?—It differs in this respect, that the grass is allowed to lie three years, and then they take two successive white crops.

10518. Do they manure again for the second crop?—Very seldom.

10519. Is it supposed in that country, that by letting the grass lie three years, they can afford to take two white crops?—That is the general impression.

10520. What is your opinion upon that?—I am rather inclined to differ from it, and to prefer the five-course system.

10521. *Chairman.*] Do you manure with bone-dust?—It is very generally used in the county.

10522. Mr. *Cayley.*] How much per acre?—It varies from 10 to 25 bushels the imperial acre, according to the mode of applying it.

Mr. *David Walker.*

20 April 1836.

10523. Do you put any fold-yard manure?—Yes, it is sometimes put in with the common farm-yard dung, and sometimes by itself; and the system of dibbling is very much introduced now, and it is dibbled in.

10524. How many cart-loads of fold-yard manure do you apply to an acre, in conjunction with a medium quantity of bones?—From 10 to 15 loads of fold-yard manure.

10525. Mr. *Loch.*] Do you mean that you dibble the whole of the crop?—The bones are dibbled.

10526. Do you lime at all?—Yes.

10527. To what extent?—To the extent of eight to 15 bolls of lime per acre.

10528. What is that in bushels?—It is four times that in bushels.

10529. What does it cost you per acre?—About 3*s.* a boll.

10530. Where does the lime come from?—Partly from England; we have got limestone in the county.

10531. *Chairman.*] Does it come in the shape of ballast?—It is sent for to Sunderland and Newcastle.

10532. Has there been much improvement going on, in liming and boning and artificial manure, in Aberdeenshire?—A great deal.

10533. Then you consider the country to be in a higher state of cultivation than it was four or five years ago?—Yes.

10534. Mr. *Cayley.*] Do you apply that to all sorts of land, or the light land?—The light land particularly, but I think improvements are going on, even upon the stiff clay land; draining is carried to greater perfection than it has been before.

10535. *Chairman.*] Have you any of that stiff clay land upon your own farm?—None.

10536. Upon any farm that you are in the habit of surveying, is there much of that stiff clay land?—Yes, there is, in some parts of the country along the coast.

10537. Has that been much improved by draining?—It has.

10538. Is that stone-draining or tile-draining?—Stones, where they can be had; tile-draining is very little used.

10539. Mr. *Loch.*] There is no want of stones in Aberdeenshire?—In some parts of it.

10540. Is it furrow-draining?—Furrow-draining is what I allude to, when I speak of draining clay land.

10541. What has been the effect upon the land which has been so furrow-drained?—It is very much improved in its fertility by the drainage; it is more friable than it was: they can cultivate turnips upon it when it is put into that state, which could not be done before.

10542. What is the expense of draining per acre?—About 6 *l.* to do it thoroughly.

10543. At whose expense is that done; the landlord's or the tenant's?—Sometimes both; the proprietor often casts the drains, and the tenant fills them.

10544. *Chairman.*] What rent will your clay land bear when it is drained?—From 16*s.* to 20*s.* the imperial acre.

10545. Mr. *Cayley.*] How long has this system of draining being going on?—Four or five years.

10546. What led to the great stimulus to draining?—The state that the land was in previous to its being drained.

10547. Had not the land been in an unproductive state many years before?—It had not been so productive as it might have been made.

10548. Was it the fall in prices which made the tenants and the landlords look to other means of obtaining a profit?—A fall in prices certainly led to it; it induced the proprietors to encourage the tenants to improve the land by those means.

10549. Would the landlord have been obliged to lower his rent if he had not given something to assist the draining?—I think he would upon the clay lands.

10550. Then it was that which made him enter into the engagement of helping his tenant to drain his land?—It was certainly a mutual advantage to the proprietor and the tenant to do so.

10551. If that draining had not taken place the rent must have been reduced very much?—In some instances it certainly must.

10552. You say there is a great improvement within three years in most of those lands; have there been very good crops of wheat upon the clay land the last three or four years?—The crops of wheat have been tolerably good crops, but wheat is so little cultivated in that country that I can scarcely speak to it.

10553. Is not wheat cultivated in clay land?—It has not been much cultivated in that country.

10554. Do they grow barley after it is drained?—Yes.

10555. Could they grow barley before the draining took place?—Oats are more commonly sown after fallow and turnips, then barley upon clay land.

10556. How have the barley crops been upon the light land the last three or four years?—They have been fair average crops.

10557. Do you remember what the years 1833 and 1834 were with respect to dryness?—One thousand eight hundred and thirty-four was a very dry summer; I do not remember 1833 so well.

10558. Would that dry summer be beneficial to the growth of barley upon the light land?—A dry summer improves the quality of the barley, but it does not improve the quantity upon our light land.

10559. In a dry summer you would have a deficient crop in point of quantity?—Yes.

10560. If there was a deficiency in point of quantity, that would tend to raise the price?—I should say so.

10561. Do you keep sheep upon the uplands of your district?—They generally feed a few sheep off the turnips.

10562. Do the farmers in your district keep a great number of sheep? In that district of country they do not keep many sheep.

10563. Do they feed them on turnips?—They do occasionally.

10564. Do they generally draw the turnips?—They are generally drawn and consumed by the cattle.

10565. How long have you been a farmer?—About twelve years.

10566. Were you acquainted with the farming interest before you began to farm yourself?—Yes; my father was a farmer, and I lived with him the greater part of my life.

10567. In your opinion, has the farmer been thriving the last twelve years?—I do not think he has been thriving; he is in fair circumstances at the present moment, but I do not think he has been making money.

10568. When you first began farming, was it a general custom for farmers to occupy farms without the expectation of making money?—I do not think it was.

10569. Had they been making money before you began; had your father made money by farming?—Yes; he was a good farmer, and had a good bargain.

10570. If your father had not been a farmer, and you had had to begin the world without anything yourself twelve years ago, do you think you would have been a very rich man now?—I do not think it.

10571. Do you think the tenantry in that district are possessed of as much capital now as they were twelve years ago?—I doubt whether they have as much capital.

10572. You think their capital has, somehow or other, slipped away from them?—It has slipped away in improving their farms.

10573. Is that a beneficial manner of expending their money?—Certainly; they do it with that expectation.

10574. Have they been in many cases deceived in that expectation?—In some instances they have, but in general not.

10575. That is because the improvements have not been made long enough?—That applies to a great many of them; the improvements are in progress only at present.

10576. Have there been many failures of the tenantry in your district within the last twenty years?—No, there have not.

10577. Do you remember prices being higher than they are now?—Yes.

10578. Have you any idea of what made them fall?—I dare say there are various causes for it.

10579. Will you state what you conceive to be any or all of the causes in your estimation —The increase of quantity, I suppose.

Mr. *David Walker.*

30 April 1836.

10580. Has there not been an increase of population in the same period?—Yes, but not to the same extent, I think.

10581. Do you remember the sudden fall in the price of agricultural produce in 1820, 1821 and 1822?—Yes, I am aware that grain at that time was low; that was before I was a farmer myself.

10582. Did you ever consider what was the cause of that sudden depression in the price?—At that time I believe I did not pay much attention to it.

10583. Do you remember the rise in 1823, 1824 and 1825?—Yes, I entered upon my farm in 1824.

10584. Did it ever occur to you what made the rise at that time?—I never thought seriously upon the subject, or if I did I do not recollect at present.

10585. Was there a fall in the price of agricultural produce after 1825?—The price of corn fell very much in 1827, and in 1826 it was high, in consequence of the failure of the crop in the county of Aberdeen.

10586. What made it fall in 1827?—It fell because it was too high in the previous year, and we had a good crop in 1827.

10587. Are you aware that prices, for twenty years together, were about 80 *s.* during the war?—I have heard so, but that applies to the price of wheat, with which I am not much acquainted.

10588. If the other grain was in proportion, can you account for that being so high for twenty years together?—I should think it was the extraordinary demand that there was for it.

10589. Was there a greater quantity of money in the country?—I think there was.

10590. A larger circulation of bank-notes?—Money circulated more freely; farmers had more money in their hands than they have at present.

10591. Would a greater quantity of money in the hands of all the people in your district, tend to raise the price of produce?—It would have that tendency unquestionably.

10592. Do you think the farmers in Scotland, in consequence of having one-pound notes, have more money in their hands than the farmers in England?—I cannot judge of that question.

10593. Do you think the one-pound notes do you any good?—There is no doubt of it.

10594. If they do you good, do you see any reason why they should not do the English farmer good?—I cannot see it; but I am not acquainted with the system of banking, and therefore I would decline giving any opinion upon that.

10595. When did the system of corn-rents begin with you?—It has been in operation a great many years; a part of the rent has been paid by grain at certain fixed prices.

10596. Has not that become more general the last few years?—I do not think it has; it has been very general for some time, but the system is rather different; it used to be oatmeal that the rents were generally paid by, and now it is converted into a certain proportion of oats, wheat or barley.

10597. *Chairman.*] Those rents are estimated by the fiars?—They are by the sheriff's fiars.

10598. Are they estimated in oats, or wheat, or barley?—Generally oats.

10599. How many bolls of oats, generally, is the rent for an acre, at the present time?—About a quarter per acre, when it is converted into grain; when the rent of the farm is converted into grain, generally, half is taken in money, and half taken in grain; the value of this grain is fixed yearly by the sheriff of the county; and at the present moment I should say that, for every pound of money, a quarter of oats would be taken.

10600. And, therefore, if the rent of the land was 20 *s.* an acre, 10 *s.* would be taken in money, and what amount of oats?—Half a quarter of oats.

10601. Mr. *Loch.*] Are you acquainted with the mode of striking the fiars in Aberdeenshire?—The sheriff of the county summons the principal corn merchants and brewers in the neighbourhood, and through the various parts of the county, to attend him, and a jury is likewise summoned.

10602. Who is the jury composed of?—Generally composed of landed proprietors and merchants in Aberdeen, fifteen in number; and the persons summoned give evidence before the jury of the quantity of grain they have bought, and the average price of the grain, and the jury then fix an average of the whole.

10603. Are none of the growers of grain summoned as witnesses?—They are sometimes, but not very often; it is mostly the corn-merchants who give evidence.

10604. Supposing

10604. Supposing a corn-merchant should turn over the same quantity of corn more than once, does the price of it each time he has sold it come into the average struck by the sheriff?—I presume it does, but I think that does not often happen; the corn-merchants generally give evidence of the quantity of corn they have bought from the farmers within a certain time.

10605. Does it apply only to the corn that has been grown within the county, or does it apply to all the corn that has been purchased within the county; for example, suppose a corn-merchant in Aberdeen should purchase a quantity of corn from you upon the other side of the river, does that come into the amount of the fiars in the county of Aberdeen?—Yes, it does; he does not make any distinction between the two counties, because a considerable part of Kincardine being situated near Aberdeen, it is a more immediate market than any market in Kincardineshire.

10606. Supposing some barley was imported from Norfolk, would that come into the fiars prices?—I think not; but I am not quite aware whether they take it in or not. I think it is for grain grown in the county as near as they can find it.

10607. Do you plough with two horses?—Generally with two; sometimes with four, after the first crop of oats, and before turnips.

10608. How deep do you plough when you plough with a pair of horses?—In ploughing from clover generally five to six inches deep.

10609. How much do you plough in a day at that rate with a pair of horses?—About a Scotch acre, that is, about an acre and a quarter imperial.

10610. In the other ploughings what is the depth to which you go then?—From eight inches to a foot.

10611. What is the nature of your subsoil?—In some parts of the county it is sand and gravel, and in other parts of the county along the coast it is a retentive clay.

10612. How deep do you plough into it?—As deep as they can go.

10613. When is it that they use the four horses?—Before turnips or fallow.

10614. How deep do you go when you make use of the four horses?—About a foot.

10615. And how much do you plough with the four horses at that depth?—About an imperial acre.

10616. *Chairman.*] Did you ever use the subsoil plough?—Yes.

10617. Mr. *Loch.*] How do you find it act?—Remarkably well upon a soil that requires it.

10618. It stirs the subsoil without raising it to the surface?—Yes.

10619. And gives a much greater depth for the water to sink into?—Yes; it is one of the most beneficial implements of husbandry that has been invented for many years.

10620. How many horses do you work it with?—Four, and sometimes six.

10621. What depth do you go with it?—There is a plough with a pair of horses goes before it that turns over the furrow about six or eight inches deep, and the subsoil plough follows in the same track to the depth of about twelve to sixteen inches.

10622. Then it is about ten inches?—Yes.

10623. Do you do that without also furrow-draining, or is it done in conjunction with furrow-draining?—It ought to be done in conjunction with it, but it is sometimes done without it.

10624. What is the expense of ploughing an acre in that way with the subsoil plough, including the first ploughing with a pair of horses?—From 20*s.* to 24*s.* an acre.

10625. That is an expense entirely borne by the tenant?—Altogether.

10626. Does the tenant find it his advantage to be at that expense in order to make the ploughing so deep?—I have no doubt of it.

10627. How long has it been practised in Aberdeenshire?—Trench-ploughing has been in practice a great many years, but not with the same description of subsoil plough.

10628. You reckon that a great improvement?—I do, very great.

10629. *Chairman.*] What is the condition of the labourers in that part of Scotland?—The condition of the labourers, I think, is good.

10630. Are they all employed?—They are.

10631. Do you pay them in kind or in money?—Money generally.

 10632. What

Mr. *David Walker.*

20 April 1836.

10632. What are their wages per week?—The labour of Scotland is performed in rather a different manner from the labour of England; the farms are worked generally by servants engaged from one half-year's end to another.

10633. Is the service completed at the end of a half-year?—Generally it is, except they happen to be engaged for the whole year, but farmers' servants unmarried are generally engaged from one half-year's end to another, and their wages run from five to six and seven pounds in the half-year, and they have a certain allowance of oatmeal and milk along with that.

10634. Do they live in the farm-houses?—In some instances they do, and in many instances they have an allowance of meal and milk without any thing else.

10635. Can you furnish the Committee with a statement of the expense of cultivating your own farm?—I cannot of my own farm. I can furnish the Committee with a statement of the expense of cultivating an acre of land, and of cultivating an average farm of the same extent as my own.

10636. Have the goodness to read it.

[*The witness read the same, as follows*:]

ROTATION followed on a FARM, consisting of 220 Acres of ARABLE LAND, situated Twelve Miles from a Sea-port Town; the soil well adapted for the cultivation of Turnips and the Artificial Grasses, and worked upon the following five-course system, *viz.*—1st, Turnips, or other Green Crop; 2d, Barley or Oats, with Grass Seeds; 3d, First year's Grass, which may be made into Hay, or de-pastured by cattle or sheep; 4th, Second year's Grass, to be eaten by cattle or sheep; and 5th, Oats after ley.

EXPENSE OF CULTIVATING ONE ACRE.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
TURNIP CROP.						
To rent per imperial acre	1	11	–			
To trench-ploughing in autumn, with 4 horses	–	14	–			
To two ploughings in spring	–	12	–			
To three harrowings	–	6	–			
To collecting and driving off weeds	–	2	–			
To twice drilling or ridging	–	8	–			
To carting out manure from farm-yard, and spreading same	–	8	–			
To eight bushels of bone dust (exclusive of dung made upon the farm) and spreading or dibbing same, at 3*s.*	1	4	–			
To seed and sowing, 2lb. per acre, at 9*d.* per lb.	–	3	6			
To hand-hoeing twice, 7*s.*, horse-hoeing, 2*s.* 6*d.*	–	9	6			
To carting turnip crop to farm steading, ¼ part to be eaten off by sheep	–	15	–			
Total expense on turnip crop	6	13	–			
To value of turnips	5	–	–			
Loss on turnip crop	–	–	–	1	13	–
BARLEY AND OATS.						
To rent of land	1	11	–			
To splitting drills and ploughing	–	10	–			
To ⅓ part under barley; seeds 1¾ bushels, at 4*s.* 7*s.* –						
To ⅔ part under oats; seed 4 bushels, at 3*s.* 12*s.* –	–	19	–			
To sowing and harrowing	–	2	6			
To grass seeds, 1¼ bushel rye grass, at 5*s.* 6*s.* 3*d.*						
To clover seeds, 6lb. at 9*d.* per lb. 4*s.* 6*d.*	–	10	9			
To sowing, harrowing and rolling	–	2	6			
To mowing, binding and setting 6*s.* –						
To carrying, stacking and thatching 8*s.* –	–	14	–			
To thrashing, dressing and driving to market	–	10	–			
Total expense on barley and oat crop	4	19	9			
By produce on portion in barley, 2 quarters, at 28*s.* per quarter 2*l.* 16*s.*						
Ditto, ditto, in oats, 3½ quarters, at 22*s.* per quarter, 3*l.* 17*s.*	6	13	–			
Profit on barley and oats				1	13	3

CLOVER,

Mr. *David Walker.*

20 April 1836.

Clover, or First Year's Grass.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
To land rent	1	11	–			
To incidental expenses in letting, repairing inclosures and attending to stock	–	4	–			
To expense of mowing, carrying, stacking, &c. ⅛ part made into hay	–	1	–			
Expense on first year's grass	1	16	–			
By produce of ⅛ acre of hay, 280 stone per acre, at 5*d.* per stone – 14*s.* 7*d.*	2	16	7			
By value of ⅞ acre of clover, cut green or pastured, 2*l.* 2*s.*						
Profit on first year's grass	–	–	–	1	–	7
Second Year's Grass.						
To rent and expenses	1	16	–			
By value of grass de-pastured	1	16	–			
Oat Crop.						
To land rent	1	11	–			
To ploughing and pressing	–	10	–			
To seed 6 bushels, at 25*s.* per quarter	–	18	9			
To sowing, harrowing and rolling	–	3	9			
To cutting, carrying, stacking, &c.	–	14	–			
To thrashing, dressing and driving to market	–	10	–			
Expense on oat crop	4	7	6			
By produce, 5 quarters per acre, at 22*s.* per quarter	5	10	–	1	2	6
Total profit on one acre for five years	–	–	–	2	3	4
Equal to 8*s.* 8*d.* per acre of profit yearly.						

Suppose the extent of the Farm to be 220 acres, the whole profit would be 95*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* for maintenance of family, superintendence, &c. &c.

10637. You estimate the value of an acre of turnips at 5 *l.*, how many sheep will that feed?—We generally eat off one-half, or one-fourth, with sheep.

10638. What weight of turnips do you grow to the acre?—Twenty to thirty tons per acre.

10639. Mr. *Miles.*] At what time do you store your turnips?—We never store them except when they are drawn, to allow the field to be ploughed for sowing.

10640. Mr. *Heathcote.*] Are the prices you have put for ploughing and harrowing the prices you would charge any one else, or do you think they absolutely cost you that money with an establishment of your own?—I do not think they could be done for much less, even keeping an establishment of my own upon the farm, but if they were to be hired, I think they would cost a little more than I have estimated.

10641. You think it absolutely costs those sums, even keeping your own horses and teams?—Probably not so much, if they are done by the tenant's own teams.

10642. Would you be willing to give that to another farmer whom you employed?—I am not sure that I would.

10643. *Chairman.*] Is that a fair statement of the cost of cultivating an acre of land in that county, and the profit that results from it?—Yes, I consider it fair.

10644. Is there much bear or bigg grown?—About a fourth part of the land that is sown down with grass seeds after turnips, is sown with bear or barley.

10645. Is that sown upon the clay land, or upon the light land?—Upon the light land mostly, but bear is sown occasionally upon the clay land too.

10646. What is your principal market for the sale of bear?—Aberdeen is the principal market. There are various other markets: there are other sea-port towns in the county.

10647. Do you export much from Aberdeen to England?—Yes.

10648. Is there much made into malt in that part of the county?—Not a great deal by the farmers, many of the farmers use brewery beer.

10649. They do not brew at home?—Some of them do, but it is not a very common thing where they have the command of brewery beer.

Mr. *David Walker.*

20 April 1836.

10650. Mr. *Heathcote.*] Do not they use spirits more than beer in that county?—Not farm servants.

10651. Mr. *Loch.*] Have you been in the habit of sending a good number of cattle to the London market by steam?—Yes, and it is increasing very much.

10652. Do you fat them in your country?—Yes.

10653. That is a new source of profit?—It is; the introduction of steam navigation has been of great consequence to Aberdeen on that account.

10654. Has there been much new land got into cultivation, in Aberdeen, the last few years, which was heath before?—Yes.

10655. What is the expense of bringing in an acre of land from heath?—The whole expense may be from 10 *l.* to 15 *l.* an acre.

10656. By whom is that borne?—In many instances the proprietor assists the tenant in trenching the land, or gives an allowance for it.

10657. What sort of allowance?—He often gives 4 *l.* or 5 *l.* to assist the tenant in the trenching the ground, and the tenant in some instances pays interest for those 4 *l.* or 5 *l.* Then the proprietor will give 10 or 15 bolls of lime to the acre, when the land is in a proper state for applying it; this he gives without any charge.

10658. Is the result such as to pay the landlord and the tenant?—I should say it was.

10659. Has the cultivation of the waste lands in that county increased of late?—It has been going on very quickly of late.

10660. Then the low price of corn has had no effect in checking that improvement?—I do not think it has.

10661. *Chairman.*] Have not oats borne a fair price for the last three or four years?—They have been pretty fair, we reckon them fair prices when they are from 20*s.* to 22*s.* a quarter.

10662. What has been the price of barley during the same period?—From 24*s.* to 30*s.*; but there has been very little barley sold in Aberdeen this season so high as 30*s.*

10663. Is that a sufficiently high price to remunerate the farmer?—I consider 30*s.* a sufficient price for barley.

10664. Mr. *Loch.*] Is there any thing in the condition of the farming interest in that district that could be relieved by any aid from Parliament?—I am not aware of any aid that Parliament could give the agricultural interest in Aberdeenshire that would be of much benefit to them.

10665. Then you think that, if they are left alone, they will gradually get into a good and wholesome state?—I do think so.

10666. Are they in that condition now?—Yes, I reckon them so.

10667. And that they have improved the last three or four years?—I am certain they are better, and in much better spirits than they were three years ago.

10668. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] You have said that the value of an acre of clay land is about from 16*s.* to 20*s.* an acre when well drained?—When thoroughly drained it would be worth at least 20*s.* an acre.

10669. And that the ordinary expense of draining is about 6*l.* an acre?—The system of draining that I alluded to, furrow-draining, would be from 6 *l.* to 7 *l.* an acre.

10670. That would absorb about seven years' rent?—Suppose the tenant were to pay interest on the money that was expended, five per cent. interest would amount to about 6*s.* additional rent; and I have no hesitation in saying that land of that quality, thoroughly drained, is worth that additional 6*s.*

10671. Have you a considerable export of cattle to the eastern parts of England from Aberdeen?—There used to be, but it is not so great now.

10672. Since what time do you date the alteration?—Since the introduction of steam navigation, and the exporting cattle for the London market, which is about five or six years ago, the quantity sold and sent to England over-land has been very much reduced.

10673. Mr. *Miles.*] You stated that you send a vast quantity of cattle to London now; what is the expense per head of sending them to London per steam?—About 1 *l.* 16*s.* for landing them, and there are other charges, which make it altogether amount to from 45*s.* to 50*s.* when sold.

10674. Had you been in the habit of ever sending any by drove previously?—It was that which I alluded to in answer to a former question.

10675. Were they ever fat?—Seldom or never fat.

10676. The

10676. The consequence is that now you get a profit upon your fat stock, in stead of sending them lean?—Yes.

10677. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] Formerly, when they were exported to the eastern parts of England, were they paid for as soon as delivered, or was there any system of credit?—There was occasionally, but not to any great extent; so far as I am aware of, they were generally paid for upon the spot before delivery.

10678. Mr. *Loch.*] An intermediate set of drovers brought them from you before they got into the hands of the English dealers?—Yes.

10679. What is the weight of your Aberdeenshire beasts which you send to London market?—From 60 to 80 stone, of 14 pounds per stone.

10680. Mr. *Gordon.*] Do you think taking off the duty on clover seed would be a benefit to the farmer?—I think it would, because we cannot raise clover seed in Scotland, and we reckon the Dutch seed are of a superior quality to the English.

10681. Sir *Charles Burrell.*] Do not you imagine that that depends very much upon the season in Holland and the season in England?—We find that the Dutch answers fully better with the soil of Scotland than the English seed.

10682. Perhaps you are not able to give an opinion as to how that would affect the farmers in the south of England, who are very considerable growers of it?—I should think it would operate against them, but I can scarcely give an opinion upon it.

10683. Can there be any doubt that if you admit foreign seeds at a light expense in competition with the home growers, that that would injure all the farmers who are growers of seeds?—Certainly, I suppose it would.

10684. Mr. *Miles.*] Supposing the duty was taken off Dutch clover, what difference would it make in the cultivation of your land?—Upon my farm from 2*l.* to 2*l.* 10*s.*; the quantity of clover I give is generally from six to seven pounds per acre, four pounds of red, and two and a half of white.

10685. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] Upon a farm of what size?—Two hundred and twenty acres.

10686. Mr. *Gordon.*] Is a proportion of the rent usually paid from the sales of cattle in your county?—Yes, generally about half from cattle and dairy produce. There is a great exportation from Aberdeen of butter, cheese, poultry and eggs to London.

10687. *Chairman.*] Are the local taxes in Aberdeenshire oppressive?—Not at all.

10688. You have no poor rate and no tithe?—No poor rate and no tithe.

10689. And your statute duty is not heavy?—The road money is not high.

10690. Is there any other local tax?—The Bridewell assessment, three-fourths of which is paid by the tenants.

10691. What does that amount to upon your farm?—Road money, Bridewell assessment and schoolmaster's salary amount altogether to about three-pence or four-pence in the pound upon the rent.

10692. Mr. *Loch.*] Have you any relief against the landlord for that payment?—No, the tenants are liable to it by law.

10693. Are not all the out-goings in Scotland in general paid by the landlord?—They are.

10694. And therefore the tenant is able to give a larger rent to the landlord in consequence?—Yes.

10695. *Chairman.*] Have the rents generally been reduced?—In some instances; but I should say very rarely. There has not been much occasion for a reduction of rent, because the general improvements of the country have been going on, and have enabled the tenant when he had good times to put his land into condition, and now he is the better able to bear the distress if there is any.

Veneris, 22° die Aprilis, 1836.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Shaw Lefevre.	Mr. Handley.
Mr. William Miles.	Sir Robert Peel.
Mr. Evans.	Mr. Clay.
Mr. Robert Clive.	Mr. Morrison.
Mr. Sanford.	Mr. Loch.
Lord John Russell.	Mr. Bingham Baring.
Mr. Cayley.	Lord Viscount Howick.
Mr. Wodehouse.	Mr. Young.

Mr. SHAW LEFEVRE, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *John Ellis*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *John Ellis.*

22 April 1836.

10696. WHERE do you live?—At Beaumont Lays, near the town of Leicester.

10697. What is your occupation?—Until within the last three years I have been a farmer entirely; I still occupy about 400 acres of land, but I have other business now; I am a coal and lime-merchant, and I am concerned in the cultivation of a farm at Chatmoss, in Lancashire.

10698. In what part of the county is your farm situated?—Within two miles of Leicester.

10699. Is that an arable farm or a grass farm?—About 150 acres arable and the rest grass.

10700. Can you state from your own experience what is the condition of the farmers in that part of the country, as compared with 1833?—I should say it is not at all worse than it was in 1833, rather better; and I can give a reason for coming to that conclusion: I am a lime-merchant as well as a farmer, and the lime that I sell goes chiefly among the agriculturists, and I find they use quite as much as they did, and they pay quite as well for it, and therefore I conclude that they are not in a worse situation than they were two years ago.

10701. Is there a greater quantity of lime consumed in the improvement of the soil?—What I sell is consumed almost entirely in the improvement of the soil; it is rather a new thing at Leicester; it is brought there in consequence of the opening up of a railway.

10702. In what description of soil is that lime applied?—This kind of lime is applied more particularly to strong heavy land, clay land.

10703. Mr. *W. Miles.*] What description of lime is it?—It is a magnesian lime; it is Breedon or Cloud Hill lime.

10704. Mr. *Loch.*] Are you an owner of land as well as an occupier?—I am not.

10705. Have you held land more extensively than you do now?—I never held more land than I do now.

10706. Has it occurred to you that there is any thing that can be done now by the Legislature to aid the farming interest?—I am decidedly of opinion that there is nothing they can do, in the way of direct legislation, for the farmer.

10707. Is there any indirect encouragement that you think might be given to the farming interest?—I do not see any thing that can be done, beyond putting the Irish into a situation to consume more of their own produce; I think it would be a great advantage if that could be done.

10708. You think the farming interest is not worse, but rather better, than it was in 1833?—Certainly not worse in my part of the country.

10709. Has the low price of wheat not affected your part of the country?—It has affected it, but we have had most extraordinary crops.

10710. And you think that made up for the deficiency of the price?—I think so, the last two or three years.

10711. The last two or three years were more abundant than the previous year?—I never knew three years together so abundant since I have been a farmer, and I have been a farmer 25 years.

10712. Is it to the great productiveness of the crop that you mainly ascribe the low prices of wheat?—It is to the great productiveness of the crop, and to the great increase of quantities sown the last three years.

10713. Then there was a larger breadth of wheat sown than was sown in the previous years?—Yes.

10714. And that, added to the greater acreable produce, you are of opinion is the reason why the price of wheat has fallen so low as it has?—Yes I cannot attribute it to any other cause.

10715. Has not the price of wheat risen very recently?—Yes.

10716. To what do you ascribe that?—To two causes: one is, that it is a prevailing opinion that the number of acres sown last year is considerably less than the preceding two or three years; and another is, the prosperous state of the country has set a spirit of speculation afloat; there is a prevailing opinion that wheat had got to such a price that it could not longer remain at that price.

10717. Was there a less proportion of spring corn grown while there was a larger proportion of wheat?—Yes.

10718. What is the case this year —There will be more barley sown this year, more of all descriptions of spring corn.

10719. What has been the price of other agricultural produce in your district while the price of wheat was so low?—A year and a half ago mutton was low, but generally speaking the price of agricultural produce has been fair.

10720. And your opinion is, that putting the whole together the agricultural interest is pretty well off; that though the price of wheat has been low, the rest of the produce being at good prices, the agricultural interest has not suffered much the last three years?—That is a question that requires a great deal of consideration. It depends on the rent a man pays and the soil. But speaking of the agricultural interest in my part of the country, I think they are not worse than they were two years ago.

10721. Then in the answers you have given, you presumed that the rent has been so reduced as to meet the changes that have taken place from the war prices of the country?—Yes, where it has been so reduced.

10722. Has such an adjustment taken place generally in your district?—I think not upon the poor soils.

10723. Therefore a portion of the grievances that the tenant has to complain of is, that the landlord has not met him to the extent that you think right?—I think it is a matter now mainly resting between landlord and tenant.

10724. And if that question was properly settled between landland and tenant, you think that Parliament can do you no good?—No, I think the less they interfere with it the better.

10725. Lord *John Russell.*] Comparing the present time with twenty or twenty-five years ago, do you think there is more lime used for the improvement of the soil by the farmers or less?—I think more now than twenty-five years ago.

10726. With regard to expensive manures generally, is there more or less used?—In my neighbourhood more used, for this reason, that I live within two miles of the town of Leicester; that town of Leicester in more than twenty years has more than doubled itself, that is, it has risen from 22,000 to at least 45,000 now. I have been a large purchaser of manure ever since I was a farmer, and I find that the demand for manure is as great as ever it was, and that it all goes upon the land in the neighbourhood of Leicester; and therefore the demand must have increased rather than decreased, because the supply has doubled.

10727. With reference to the consumption of wheaten bread, do you think there is less consumed in proportion among the labouring classes than there used to be?—No, I do not think there is; there is an increased quantity of potatoes grown, but I think they have not increased in a much greater proportion than the population has; and I think that the people substitute potatoes instead of cabbage and that sort of vegetable that they used to use.

10728. You do not think that the labourers commonly substitute potatoes for the use of wheaten bread?—Certainly not, in my neighbourhood.

10729. With regard to the towns, in such a town as Leicester, can you tell by the number of bakers' shops selling bread, whether the labouring classes in the towns consumed more or less bread than formerly?—I have no doubt they can consume more since the price was low; I think the lower class of people never were so well off.

10730. Mr. *Loch.*] Have there been considerable improvements made upon the land in draining and otherwise in the last three years?—Yes, I think the improvements have gone on more rapidly the last two years. In reference to draining, people have found the great advantage of having the strong land drained.

10731. What is the system of draining pursued in your district?—It varies a good deal; I introduced the system used in Essex, that is, of draining with straw,

Mr. *John Ellis.*

22 April 1836.

and that has been of great advantage. There is a great deal drained with stones and some with tiles, and a good deal with turf.

10732. Do you drain up the furrows?—Yes, now almost invariably.

10733. What is the expense per acre?—It depends upon the width of the lands; ours is an old tillage country drawn into lands of very different widths; it will vary from 25 *s.* to 35 *s.* an acre draining it in the cheap way with straw.

10734. With tiles?—It would cost twice as much with tiles.

10735. Is that done at the expense of the landlord or the tenant?—Both partly, I think; many landlords have adopted the judicious plan of assisting their tenants to drain their lands of late years; they furnish tiles, and the tenants put them in.

10736. Lord *John Russell.*] Do you pay tithes in your farm?—My farm is extra-parochial; we have neither tithe, poor, nor road.

10737. Mr. *Miles.*] What description of soil is yours?—I have a variety of soil upon my own farm; I have strong land, and deep loamy soils.

10738. Have you kept a separate account of the expenses of the arable land?—Not of that separately.

10739. You are a large grazier?—About 400 acres of land.

10740. How many oxen do you turn off in a year?—I breed my stock, and I keep a dairy and send the milk to the town of Leicester.

10741. If you were to take the produce of your arable land distinct from the produce of your grass land, should you have gained or lost in the last two years?—I should have gained upon the arable land, because I have had an extraordinary crop both of wheat and barley.

10742. What did you average of wheat?—That is a question I cannot answer, because I have not any document to refer to; 36 to 38 bushels an acre of wheat; of barley last year I averaged 50 or 51 bushels an acre.

10743. How many sacks of potatoes?—The potatoes were an extraordinary crop the year before last; I suppose I grew 200 bushels of 90 lbs. to the bushel last year, and the year before between 300 and 350.

10744. May the Committee take the account you have given of your farm as the average condition of the farmers immediately in the neighbourhood of Leicester?—Yes, all immediately round where I live; the land is in a very good state of cultivation in my immediate neighbourhood.

10745. Do you think you should be benefited had you a greater price for your tallow?—It would make a very trifling difference to me; it would be a benefit certainly to the extent to which it would go.

10746. Mr. *Loch.*] Have the rents been lowered in your district generally?—In my immediate neighbourhood they have been lowered very little.

10747. Since when?—My own farm was very much advanced in 1826; I took the farm that I occupy from my father in 1811, and from 1811 to 1826 the rent remained the same, and I improved the farm myself, and got it into a good state, and my rent then was very considerably advanced, and in 1827 or 1828 a reduction of a fourteenth was made upon that, and it stands at that now.

10748. Have you any objection to state what it is per acre?—No, I have no objection; it is a farm of 374 acres; my father took it 1806 or 1807 at a rent of 370 *l.*; he died in 1810, and the year he died it was raised to 444 *l.*; I had it at that rate till 1826, and then it was raised to 700 *l.* a year, and now I give 650 *l.*

10749. Mr. *Clive.*] Have you laid out much upon that farm in draining?—I have drained nearly every furrow of it that wanted draining, and I should suppose it all wanted draining, except about 40 acres.

10750. *Chairman.*] And that draining has paid you a fair interest for your money?—The best interest that I ever got for any money in my life expended in farming.

10751. Mr. *Clive.*] The rent you do not much complain of?—No, but it must be borne in mind that I live near a town.

10752. Mr. *Sanford.*] That would not apply to the whole county of Leicester?—Certainly not.

10753. Mr. *Clive.*] You have spoken of draining with straw; did you commence the straw draining when you entered upon the farm?—No, my father sent me into the county of Essex when I was a boy of sixteen or seventeen years of age, and I saw the system of draining there; when I began to drain upon my own account the common practice was to fetch stones to drain land with; I fetched stones and drained my land at the expense of 10 *l.* an acre, but I found that money went at such a rate it would not do, and then I adopted the plan that I had seen in Essex.

Essex. My neighbours all predicted that it would not stand; I knew that it would from what I had seen in the county of Essex, and I have a piece of land that has been drained in that manner which has been in tillage ever since; I grew it with turnips, and I grew it with potatoes; of course there is a great deal of cartage over it, but it was as dry almost as any land you will see during the late wet weather.

10754. What is the depth?—I drained it deeper than I should again; they were put in nearly two feet; I should not drain that land more than 18 or 20 inches if I did it again.

10755. Mr. *Miles.*] Had you any outfall; did you lay tiles?—No; the straw is of no use but to support the clay above it till it adheres together; if you were to lay tiles it would stop it up.

10756. Mr. *Clive.*] Then your principle is this, that the straw preserves the clay for a certain period, and then the clay becomes hardened, and it forms a firm drain?—Yes; if you open the drain in about two years, you will find that it adheres together; I generally contrive to do it when the field has had wheat, and a moderate crop of stubble will drain a whole field.

10757. Mr. *Miles.*] Does the clay above the straw not get so adhesive as to prevent the water getting through it into the drain?—Draining with straw has an advantage over tiles in that respect; when you put in a tile, you put in clay upon it again, and that soon becomes so adhesive that nothing can get through it; but in draining with loose straw it leaves pores in the clay, and leaves a possibility of the water getting down, and it has that effect that it drains better.

10758. Mr. *Clive.*] Then the stubble may be from six to eight inches long, and that laid up in the drain causes an aqueduct which brings the water down the drain?—Yes; we take out a narrow spit at the bottom of the drain, as if we were going to do it with turf, and push the straw into that, and it will stand twenty years.

10759. Mr. *Miles.*] What depth of straw do you lay at the bottom of the drain?—Three or four inches.

10760. Mr. *Cayley.*] If it was not for the circumstance of your living within two miles of Leicester, could you pay the same rent as you do now?—It depends upon the soil; not upon my own farm.

10761. Do you think you would be so prosperous, even if your rent was reduced, if you lived 20 or 25 miles from Leicester?—It would depend upon how much it was reduced; if it was reduced in a fair ratio.

10762. Do you consider that your land producing 36 or 38 bushels per acre of wheat, and 51 or 50 bushels of barley, is land of an ordinary description?—It is land of fair quality, neither the best nor the worst.

10763. What should you consider the average production upon average description of land?—I think the average of wheat has been very much underrated in the evidence before these Committees; I should say it was 28 bushels an acre.

10764. Yours produces 36 to 38 bushels?—Yes; that arises from extraordinary circumstances.

10765. Do you think you would be able to make that land so productive if it was not for the manure you have from the cows you keep?—If it were not for the manure I purchase and bring from the town of Leicester I should not.

10766. You were understood to say, that you furnish the town of Leicester considerably with milk?—Yes; I keep a breeding stock, and I sell my milk at the town of Leicester.

10767. Would you have had such a demand for milk had you not been so near the town of Leicester?—Certainly not.

10768. Therefore that is an advantage which ordinary farmers have not?—It is.

10769. How far used the lime to come before this railroad was made?—It would have been about 20 miles to fetch the lime by land carriage before this railroad was made.

10770. What would it have cost to have fetched a ton of lime to your farm before this railroad was made?—It would have cost me at least 10*s.* a ton.

10771. What does it cost now?—It has now a land carriage upon it of about three miles before it gets to the railroad, which is at 2*s.* 6*d.*, and it is brought on the railway at 2*d.* a ton per mile, that will make it about 5*s.* 6*d.*; it is a saving of one-half in the expense of transit.

10772. The cost of carriage was a virtual prohibition?—Yes, I never used a pound of it.

Mr. John Ellis.

22 April 1836.

10773. Do you think the late extraordinary fine seasons for clay land have tended to improve the condition of the land?—I think they have, but the mere clay-land farmers had got to a very low ebb.

10774. What is the produce per acre of those farms?—I know clay-land farms in bad condition that do not produce more than 20 bushels an acre.

10775. Would a clay-land farm generally produce more than that without draining?—Certainly not, because it depends almost entirely on the seasons without draining.

10776. Do you think the prosperity of the clay-land farmers has arisen mainly from a succession of extraordinary seasons?—It has.

10777. If there was a recurrence of ordinary seasons, what would be the condition of the clay-land farmer with land producing 24 bushels an acre?—In the course of a few seasons he would be as badly off as before, but not immediately, because all the clay lands I know are in a much better state of cultivation than they were before, because every man has been able to make his fallow, on account of the sun shining continually.

10778. Has there been a great increase of draining in your neighbourhood?—Not very great, because most of the lands were drained many years before.

10779. Were they drained under the high prices?—They have been drained since the war.

10780. The drainage that has taken place, has it been done by the landlord or by the tenant?—Latterly by the landlord in part.

10781. Do you think the landlord has had in view the fear of a reduction of rent if he did not lay out some money in improvements?—Yes, there is no question of it.

10782. When you say that you think the clay-land farmer is not worse off now than he was two years ago, do you compare his condition under three years good seasons for clay land with his condition under a succession of three or four very wet seasons?—I take his situation as a farmer three years ago.

10783. Was not his condition then one of a state of suffering not only from a fall of prices, but from three or four very wet seasons?—Most certainly it was.

10784. Did not those wet seasons produce a great pestilence among the sheep flocks?—Yes, in my neighbourhood; but from having drained my land I only lost one, and mine is as rotten a farm as any in the county of Leicester.

10785. Speaking of the farmers generally in the county of Leicester, did they lose very considerably?—Yes.

10786. Do you think the rot in sheep tended to increase the price of sheep?—Very much.

10787. Do you remember the price of sheep immediately before that pestilence took place?—I cannot call it to mind exactly, but I know that it enhanced the price very much.

10788. Do you think that those parties who did not lose their sheep would have been benefited by the rise that took place?—Yes, I benefited myself.

10789. Your farm is principally a grazing farm?—Yes, about two-thirds of it.

10790. Do you breed your sheep?—I do.

10791. Then your flock would be very much increased in value in consequence of the loss in other flocks, you yourself sustaining none?—Yes.

10792. Do you think that loss has been supplied?—I think at present, with the present crop of lambs, the country is as full of sheep as I ever knew it. I think it has just now regained the point.

10793. Can you speak of the crop of lambs in any other district than your own?—I cannot this year; I have no doubt there has been a great loss in many parts of the country.

10794. If the good crop of lambs has not been general, will that tend to replace the general quantity?—If there is an average crop of lambs this year, I think we have a full stock of sheep, as far as I know the state of the country. I speak of Leicestershire sheep.

10795. You have given an account of your own condition, and you say the condition of those immediately surrounding you may be supposed to be the same as yours; but, speaking of the county of Leicester generally, what is the condition of the farmers?—That they are in a much worse condition than they have been in at any time within 20 years.

10796. Do you think that their having bettered since three years ago, is to be attributed to the extraordinary crops they have had?—I do not say that they are better;

better; they are about as well off; but the farmers upon the poor soils are now badly off.

10797. Have you ever been led to reflect upon the causes of their being worse off?—Yes, I think the first cause in the alteration of their condition, was the transition from a long state of war to that of peace; the whole thing was deranged; I was brought up myself upon the war notions, and the whole thing was deranged.

10798. You think it was war that raised the prices?—No question of it, from a great variety of causes.

10799. Do you remember the period immediately succeeding the war?—I do right well; for I began to farm about one year before it.

10800. Do you recollect things rising again in 1817 and 1818?—Yes.

10801. There was no war then?—No, but we had a very bad crop in 1816.

10802. Had you a bad crop of all sorts of corn?—I think we had a very wet harvest.

10803. Do you recollect how the manufacturers of Leicester were at that time?—I do not recollect.

10804. Would a scarce harvest be advantageous to the manufacturing interest?—Certainly not.

10805. You do not remember the King's Speech in 1817 and 1818, stating that there was great prosperity amongst both the agriculturists and the manufacturers?—I do not recollect.

10806. Do you recollect the great fall in prices in 1820, 1821 and 1822?—Yes.

10807. What was the cause of the fall of prices then?—The alteration of the currency had a great deal to do with it.

10808. Do you recollect the rise in 1823, 1824 and 1825?—Yes.

10809. What made that rise in prices?—I do not know that I am able to account for that; I believe the bank circulation was extended in 1822.

10810. Then you think an extended issue of paper will tend to raise the prices?—Yes, it would have that effect.

10811. Taking the tenants in Leicestershire in 1820 and the tenants in Leicestershire in 1836, should you say that they had more capital then than now?—I should say they had 30 per cent. more then than they have now.

10812. Then Leicestershire, agriculturally considered, is 30 per cent. poorer in 1836 than it was in 1820?—Yes; but then we have an altered currency; a man is poorer that has debts to pay to that extent.

10813. And notwithstanding all the hard labour, and all the skill that he has applied to his land, he is a poorer man after 16 years than he was before?—Yes; but if his landlord had met the alteration of the currency, he would not have been in the same state that he is now; the landlord did not reduce for many years after that.

10814. How much do you think rents must be reduced in Leicestershire now, if the prices remain as they have been the last year or two?—That is a difficult question; a great many rents must be reduced 30 or 40 per cent.

10815. Do you think, if the whole of the rent is reduced upon some species of land, it will be able to bear the expenses of production at the price of 40 *s.* a quarter?—Some land will bear very little rent at 40 *s.* a quarter.

10816. Do you know any land yourself that would not bear any rent at 40 *s.* a quarter?—I know a good deal of land that I should not like to give any rent for at 40 *s.* a quarter.

10817. Is it to any extent?—Not a very great deal; we have not a very great deal of very poor land in our country.

10818. Do the tradesmen complain in Leicestershire of the distress among the farmers?—Yes, I have heard blacksmiths and carpenters, and people of that description complain.

10819. The tradesmen and the artizans in the agricultural districts have not lowered their prices, have they?—Not much.

10820. Then they ought to be getting rich?—They do not get work enough.

10821. Have they any bad debts?—No; I do not think they have any bad debts; even the farmers at present are a class of men that I would sooner trust than any other class of men.

10822. Do the grocers and linendrapers in provincial towns complain of the farmers not employing them so much as they used to do?—I have heard the grocers and drapers in provincial towns complain that the farmers were not able to spend so much as they did many years ago.

Mr. *John Ellis.*

22 April 1836.

10823. Do they complain that they do not pay their bills?—I never have heard a complaint of that sort.

10824. Under the present currency, what prices do you think would bring the farming interest to a moderate degree of prosperity?—If I was asked as to any particular farm, and told the rent, then I could answer the question.

10825. Being in the habit of looking over land, cannot you say what price would make it remunerating to grow wheat at upon the average of land?—Taking the rents of land as they are now, and with such seasons as the last, I think it might be grown at 50*s.* a quarter.

10826. But with ordinary seasons?—I doubt whether it could be grown at that price at the present rent.

10827. What could barley be grown at?—I should say that from 30*s.* to 35*s.* a quarter is a fair remunerating price.

10828. Do you think the crops of barley have been equal to the crops of wheat the last few years?—No, I think upon the light soils in 1834 they were very deficient.

10829. Are the light soils generally considered barley soils?—Yes, but it was too dry.

10830. That would tend to sustain the price in 1835?—I do not think it would have that effect for this reason, that there was so great demand for malt that there was scarcely any barley left on hand at the commencement of the present malting season.

10831. If there was a deficient crop of barley in 1834 that would account for it?—My opinion is, that there would be none this year with a good crop. I think that the people drink the barley as fast as it is grown.

10832. Do you think taking off the beer duty tended to raise the price of barley?—Yes, I think it did.

10833. If it had not been for that, barley would have been as low as wheat?—No, I think it would have been lower than it has been.

10834. Mr. *Clive.*] Are your poor rates low?—They are very much lower, they are not low.

10835. How much in the pound?—I have nothing to do with them myself, as I pay none; but I can state what they are in the parishes surrounding me. In the parish of Belgrave immediately adjoining my own place, (I got this from the parish books in 1816) the poor rates were 587*l.*; in 1824, 629*l.*; in 1830, 840*l.*; in 1834, 576*l.*, and in 1835, 460*l.*

10836. Has the new Poor Law got into operation in your neighbourhood?—No, they are just commencing; the unions are just formed, but they have not got into operation. That parish comprises 1,397 acres. Here is the parish of Lyston, population 1,300; acres 1,785; the rates in this parish in 1830, were 1,680*l.*, and in 1835, 840*l.*

10837. *Chairman.*] Are the labourers generally in employment?—They are all employed with us.

10838. Mr. *Loch.*] Did you ever know the labouring class in a more comfortable condition than they are now?—Never in so comfortable a condition as they are at present.

10839. The clay-land farmers, you say, are not in a better condition; supposing the landlords had met those farmers with respect to the rent, and a proper system of draining had been resorted to, would they not have been in a better condition?—In a much better condition; they are generally industrious men.

10840. Are those farms let upon lease?—We have very few leases in that country.

10841. If leases were given would it not increase the confidence of the farmer?—I think it would have no effect with us, because there is a great deal of confidence, generally speaking, between landlords and tenants.

10842. Mr. *Cayley.*] Are not the landlords disposed to give leases?—Not with us.

10843. Do you recollect a time when there were leases?—I remember when there were many leases.

10844. Was not the tenant inclined to demand a lease?—Not in my days.

10845. During high times of the war, was not it the tendency of farmers to demand a lease?—I have no doubt it was.

10846. Has there been much change of tenantry of late years?—There has been some change.

10847. Since the change in the currency, has there been much change of tenantry?—There has been more than in the previous ten years.

10848. What has become of those men that have left their farms?—Many of them are labourers; a farmer very seldom leaves his farm till he is reduced to the necessity of leaving it.

10849. Were those men men of prudence, and skill, and industry?—I do not know many very clever farmers that were reduced to that situation.

10850. What do you mean by clever farmers?—I mean a man that farms his land in a proper way, an industrious enterprising man.

10851. Were they men of an ordinary degree of intelligence and industry?—I should think men of the ordinary caste; they generally occupied inferior lands.

10852. Mr. Buckley, of Normanton, near Loughborough, was examined in 1833, and Mr. Buckley gave in the expense of cultivating one acre of fallow wheat; he stated the expense at 12*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.*, and the incoming at 10*l.* 12*s.*, leaving a deficit of 1*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* on land growing 30 bushels of wheat per acre. What is your opinion of that calculation, the wheat selling at 7*s.* 6*d.* a bushel?—This is taking it for granted that he bought this manure, and he ought not to charge this manure to this crop, all of it if it is manure of that description that he has a right to charge, he ought to debit the next crop with half of that manure, then I should say it is not a fair calculation for that reason; he has taken the rent fairly I dare say, and the taxes I cannot speak to.

10853. Can you make out a statement of a similar nature upon an acre, taking the whole course through upon land of that description?—No doubt I could make it.

10854. Mr. *Loch.*] What is the course of cropping that you pursue?—Mine if it is a course at all is a six course cropping, but I am under extraordinary circumstances, being near Leicester; supposing my land to be in clover, I take the clover up and sow it with wheat; after the wheat is taken, either potatoes or beans; that depends upon the quality of the land, if it will suit I put it all in potatoes; I manure very highly with potatoes; then again I take wheat after fallow for turnips or mangel wurzel, and then barley or oats, according to the quality of the land, and seeds again.

10855. *Chairman.*] What is the condition of the farmer on light land, has his condition improved since 1833?—I think it is quite as good as it was.

10856. Is it better than that of the farmer of heavy land?—Very much better.

10857. Have not the light lands within the last few years grown a greatly increased crop of wheat?—Yes, the system of growing wheat has altogether changed since; I remember 25 years ago a notion prevailed that light land would not grow wheat; now I believe it is found by experience that moderate light land, barley and turnip land, will grow upon an average of years more wheat than what used to be called the old wheat and bean lands.

10858. And that land has lately come into competition with the old heavy wheat land of the country?—Yes.

10859. Has much bone manure been employed upon the light land?—Not a great deal in my own county.

10860. With respect to the grass-land farmer, has his condition improved or not?—No, upon the inferior grass land I think he has been in as bad a situation as the arable farmer.

10861. The price of stock has not been sufficiently high to remunerate him?—No, a change has taken place in my county, 25 years ago there was very little beef and mutton raised in the counties of Essex and Suffolk; now a mere grass farmer in Leicestershire that has no tillage land cannot keep his stock in the winter; he goes to market and buys his cattle in the spring; he is obliged to sell them again at the fall of the year when the market is exceedingly full, and the man in this part of the country that occupies tillage land, altogether supplies the market in the high season of the year, and the mere Leicestershire grazier, upon middling grazing land, has no chance.

10862. Mr. *Handley.*] Is not the fact as respects the old grazing land that the store stock is sold at a much higher price?—Yes, for this reason that the grazier is obliged to send it to the market again when the market is glutted.

10863. To what do you conceive the present high price of stock to be owing?—I can give no reason for it, it is the common course of supply and demand.

10864. Do you find that the supply is very considerably less than the average of former years?—No, I think our markets are as full as ever they were.

Mr. *John Ellis.*

22 April 1836.

10865. Do you conceive that there was an equal quantity of beef in Leicestershire the last winter to what there has been previously?—Certainly not, but that has arisen from other causes, partly from the want of winter food, and another reason was that they paid so badly the year before that few people were inclined to try the experiment of keeping them the next year upon cake.

10866. Is it your opinion that the present prices of store stock hold out a bad prospect to the grazier?—I should say not very bad if the country keeps in a prosperous state.

10867. Are they buying at the present spring fairs upon terms that you think a fair speculation, with a view to what they can sell it at?—Yes, I think certain descriptions of cattle; the markets are very bare of beef, and there is a prospect of those things that come out early selling very well, but I think thoroughly lean stock are not very badly bought, I mean that they are selling at a fair price.

10868. With reference to leases of clay farms, generally speaking, are not the clay farms to which you alluded occupied by men of very small capital?—They are.

10869. Men that are not able to stock a grass farm, or to buy artificial manure for light land, are driven to occupy low-priced inferior clay lands?—Yes.

10870. Is that a description of person, that even if he had a lease could be expected to lay out much in the improvement of it?—No; it is impossible.

10871. Will not the natural consequence of a lease, under those circumstances be, that it would be binding upon one party, and one alone?—Exactly; if I were a land-owner I should not grant leases.

10872. With reference to that description of farm, does not an understanding obtain, that the incoming tenant pays the outgoing tenant very fairly and liberally for any outlay in the preceding year's cultivation?—No; the custom of our country is very bad as regards the tenant.

10873. Will you explain what it is in that respect?—With respect to the incoming tenant, the outgoing tenant thrashes his crop and goes out, and the incoming tenant comes and takes all that he finds there without paying a farthing for it, unless the outgoing tenant can prove that he purchased manure. If a man had drained the whole of his farm at his own expense within two years, and his landlord were to turn him out of that farm, the practice of our country would not give the tenant a single farthing if he had done it all.

10874. Is not he allowed for dead fallows?—Yes.

10875. And seed and labour?—Yes.

10876. Your occupations are not exclusively that of farming?—No.

10877. You are largely concerned in the coal trade?—Yes.

10878. And you reside near Leicester?—Yes; upon my farm.

10879. What is the present state of cultivation in Chatmoss?—It is a speculation that I and some friends of mine entered into there in consequence of the Liverpool and Manchester railway going over that moss; we fancied that it would some day turn to account, and we took 660 acres upon a long lease for 68 years, at a progressive rent amounting ultimately to 5 *s.* an acre, and we commenced four or five years ago to cultivate the land.

10880. What was your first process?—I cannot exactly state the expense of it; first we drained it; that bog is 30 feet deep; we did not take all the water off, but we drain it three or four feet deep; we drain it with the bog itself.

10881. Will you explain that?—That bog cannot be treated as other land is; a man goes and takes out a sod a foot deep, and lays it upon one side, and it lies there two or three weeks, till the bog has emptied itself of its immense body of water to that depth; then after that a man comes and takes out another, and lets it lie another fortnight or three weeks, till the water is drained out; then we take a narrow spit out of the bottom; then we turn the first piece upside down, and lay it on like common turf drain.

10882. How long after that process is it before you can get upon the land with any implements?—It is better that it should be done two years before, but I think that in six months we can plough it.

10883. You plough it with pattens upon the horses' feet?—Yes.

10884. Is that very slow and expensive?—No, it costs about 10 *s.* an acre the first ploughing.

10885. Are your horses liable to accidents?—No, I cannot say that they are; we find that we have scarcely any accidents.

10886. How many ploughings do you require before you can venture any crop upon it?—We give it three.

10887. At what intervals?—Three ploughings and three harrowings; we plough it in the Spring generally; we let it lie twelve months if we can; we grow potatoes the first time, and some had wheat the first time.

10888. Then from the commencement of the draining to the first return what lapse of time is there?—There ought to be two years, at least, or two and a half to do it fairly.

10889. Do you find that it requires liming or manuring?—Lime is of no use; that is a curious thing; we manure it very highly from Manchester, this is six miles from Manchester, and we get the manure by the railway; we put on 40 tons an acre, but we marl it very highly: the next process is marling it; we put on 120 tons of marl an acre; under our lease we have power to take out of Mr. Trafford's estate as much marl as we want, paying him for the land that we take away that is all round the moss, and then we have laid a railway upon the moss, and we have temporary railways about the field in which we do the work.

10890. Mr. *Sanford.*] What description of marl is it?—Good clay marl.

10891. Mr. *Handley.*] Have you heard of an invention of a steam plough of Mr. Heathcote's, on Redmoss, near Bolton?—No.

10892. Is it a brother of yours who resides upon Chatmoss?—A brother-in-law, his name is Evans.

10893. He has not communicated to you that such an instrument is in existence, and is working now upon Redmoss?—No.

10894. Should you conceive that a steam-engine working ploughs by seven men, and burning peat such as you yourself have upon Chatmoss, would be a very valuable implement in moss cultivation?—I should think it would, if you get coals cheap.

10895. Have you ever tried draining moss by pressure?—Never.

10896. What may be the produce of your potato crop upon the average?—It varies exceedingly according to the season, because if there comes a very dry season after we have planted with potatoes, the moss is not reduced into soil; we have pulled it to pieces, and filled it full of marl and full of manure, but still the moss is all fibres, and if it comes very dry, the little rain that comes never gets into it, and we almost lose the crop; if it comes a good, fair season, such as the year 1830, we get a very good crop, a crop of 250 bushels an acre, or from that to 300.

10897. For which you have a good market at Manchester?—Yes.

10898. Are those potatoes of a quality used for household purposes?—Most of them.

10899. You succeed that by wheat?—Yes, we sow it partly with wheat first; it is a great job to get it ready for potatoes.

10900. What is the amount in point of bulk when taken up with wheat?—It is not a large crop; it will not grow more than 16 to 24 bushels an acre.

10901. Is there a great proportion of straw?—No, a very small proportion of straw.

10902. Does the wheat after potatoes generally answer better than wheat taken the first crop?—Quite as well.

10903. What is the next?—Clover; it grows clover remarkably well.

10904. Red clover?—Yes.

10905. Do you mow or graze the clover?—We mow it, and send a part of it into Manchester Green, and mow the rest for lay.

10906. Do you let it remain more than one year?—Yes, but we find it does not answer at present.

10907. What do you then take it up with?—With wheat; that depends upon the season; sometimes it has answered well, and sometimes not so well.

10908. Do you find that a crop of wheat upon the clover lays is better than the first crop?—We have hardly gone round enough yet; I think it is about the same; the first crop we had was in 1829, and then in 1830.

10909. Is it your intention then to revert to potatoes, and make the course potatoes, wheat, clover, wheat?—Yes, I think so.

10910. When you speak of lime not being suitable for that moss, is the water that is expressed from that moss generally prejudicial to vegetation?—I do not think it is; we should see it in the ditches if it was; but the ditches grass down to the very spot.

10911. Have you found any of the drains close?—Yes; they close for this reason; that if we drain that moss a yard deep, being a sponge full of water in the

Mr. *John Ellis.*

22 April 1836.

first instance, when we have got the water out it compresses, and in the course of three or four years we should get the plough into those drains; in the course of four or five years it would want draining afresh.

10912. Have you any means of judging how much the surface has sunk in one course of cropping?—I should think from nine to twelve inches.

10913. In four years?—Yes, in the first course.

10914. At what distance are the drains?—Five yards.

10915. Mr. *Cayley.*] So that every year it became more and more solid?—Yes.

10916. Do you conceive that a time will ever come when lime will answer upon that land?—I do not see why it should not; I cannot conceive the reason of its having no effect now.

10917. Have you ever had it chemically examined?—No.

10918. Mr. *Sanford.*] Will clover grow without lime?—Yes; it grows in as fine a style as you could wish to see it.

10919. Mr. *Handley.*] Are you able to give the Committee an estimate of the expenses of one course of cropping?—Yes; preparing it for potatoes and draining costs us 18*l.* an acre; that is, including the ditches and the whole of the draining of the surface, three ploughings and harrowings cost us 1*l.* 9*s.* This calculation was carefully gone into last spring for our own satisfaction. We plough with one horse, or else we could not get it done at that price.

10920. What depth do you generally plough?—We plough deep the first time; nine or ten inches deep.

10921. Then it is not so very fibrous as some other mosses are?—It is all fibre; I suppose it must be more tender than some others.

10922. What is the character of the plough; is it a fixed one?—It is a fixed one, and has an exceedingly sharp share, as sharp as an edged tool, or else you cannot cut it at all; and the marling 120 tons per acre costs us 4*l.* 7*s.*

10923. Having the marl for nothing?—No; we pay for the land. Laying down a temporary railway costs us 3*s.* per acre for the marling and 3*s.* per acre for getting on the manure. The cost of manure of 40 tons of manure per acre from Manchester is 9*l.*; then it costs us 10*s.* to put it on; then the wear and tear and interest upon the railway and other things about 10*s.* an acre, amounting to 18*l.* 2*s.* per acre.

10924. What is the cost of the railway per mile?—It is not a common railway; it was rolled in a peculiar shape for the purpose; it cost us when it was laid down about 700*l.* a mile, including the sanding of the road.

10925. Have you the expenses for the course of cropping?—No, I have not them any further than this; I have had so little to do with it myself, that I cannot follow it out further than this letter.

10926. Do you know whether the value of Chatmoss has increased since you made your bargain?—Yes, very much; there is a great deal come into cultivation since.

10927. At a higher rent than you pay?—Yes; I do not mean to say that it will pay those speculators.

10928. So far are you satisfied with your speculation?—Not as a mere farm, but we are satisfied with it in this way, that we fancy that ultimately this land, from its vicinity to Manchester and to Liverpool, will become much more valuable, but it does not pay as a farm.

10929. Then as a profit and loss account you are so far losers?—Yes, we are; we keep a very correct profit and loss account, because it is a partnership concern.

10930. In fact, you would not be induced to repeat your speculation without other means of cultivation, unless it were with the prospect of Manchester increasing, and the market being more valuable?—No, certainly not.

10931. There is a belief that Chatmoss will be studded with villas soon, is there not?—It will be, no doubt; there are a number building upon it now; we have a pretty place upon it already.

10932. Mr. *Sanford.*] Will trees grow upon it?—We have planted it with hedges and they grow as well as anywhere.

10933. *Chairman.*] Do you observe any great improvement in the land as you go on farming it?—Yes, there is a part of it that Mr. Roscoe commenced farming in the war, and lost a great deal of money upon it, but he brought a certain small part of it into cultivation, and Mr. Baines, the Member for Leeds, has it; he bought the lease when it was sold, and he goes on cultivating it? he has it in his own

own hands, and that which has been in cultivation now twenty years he has got into something approaching good land, and got as fine crops of wheat as you would wish to see.

10934. Mr. *Handley.*] You have reason to suppose that the longer it is kept in cultivation the better the land will become?—Yes.

10935. If, instead of the ploughing costing you 10*s.* an acre, you could by the application of steam do it for 3*s.* 6*d.*, would it make such an alteration as to vary the character of the speculation?—It would vary it very much, certainly.

10936. Would it be a very desirable thing to produce such an implement?—Certainly.

10937. Mr. *Clive.*] Then you think up to a period of twenty years the speculation is against you?—When I say twenty years, I think the land I speak of became productive land within ten or twelve years of the time; but up to ten years I would not take it as a speculation to farm it.

10938. But from that period you think it would be a favourable speculation?—Yes, I think it would.

10939. Mr. *Handley.*] Is your labour expensive there?—We give the men 2*s.* a day.

10940. Do you require a large quantity of manual labour?—Yes, the land is very much inclined to go to weeds and filth.

10941. Do you know the amount of labour per annum?—No, I have not that part of the calculation.

10942. Mr. *Loch.*] Are you acquainted with any other part of the kingdom, besides that you have spoken of in the neighbourhood of Leicester?—Yes; I am acquainted with other parts of the country.

10943. Are you acquainted with the country near Boston?—Not near Boston, but in the neighbourhood of Spalding. I knew it fifteen years ago.

10944. Mr. *Clay.*] Are there many farms in the neighbourhood in which you reside without tenants at present?—I do not know of one.

10945. Supposing there were any out of occupation at this moment, do you think there would be many applicants for them?—Yes, I think there is as great demand for land now as there almost ever was, but very little land has changed hands the last two years.

10946. Mr. *Loch.*] With regard to the question of low prices, have you ever considered how those low prices might be affected by the present system of corn laws?—Latterly they have not been affected at all by the corn laws, because we are living entirely on our own growth. I have thought a good deal upon the corn laws, and if I had been asked that question two years ago, I should have said without hesitation that it would be desirable to abolish the present system so as to have a fixed duty, but since I have seen that we can grow so much more than we want ourselves, I doubt whether that would be a safe plan to resort to. But I think the present duty is too high for this reason, that I think it gives a fictitious value to land, that it gives the farmers an expectation that something is to come to their relief that can never arrive, and on that account it holds up the value of land fictitiously.

10947. Then you think it induced the tenants to make larger offers than in the result they have been able to pay?—I think so; farmers are naturally prone to expect high prices, and they have been expecting something that was not likely to happen.

10948. Then what alteration would you recommend?—Mine is a vague opinion, but I should propose to retain the fluctuating duty, and to reduce it one-half. I think that that would be all the protection that we ought to have.

10949. Mr. *Clay.*] When you say "reduce it one-half," do you mean that you would make it begin at 60*s.* instead of 70*s.*?—Yes.

10950. Mr. *Clive.*] Would you take off the extreme ends of the duty altogether?—I think it might be left where it is, only changing from 70*s.* to 60*s.*

10951. *Chairman.*] Would you stop at the last two stages of the scale, and have a fixed duty of 5*s.*, and never a lower duty than 5*s.*?—That is a point upon which I have not thought; but I should not think that would be a bad plan, because I think the 5*s.* would be no injury to anybody.

10952. Mr. *Clive.*] Are you satisfied that the averages are fairly taken?—I think they are not unfairly taken now, but a great part of the corn sold in country markets is never included.

Mr. *John Ellis.*

22 April 1836.

10953. If the seller as well as the buyer was to give in a return, would that be a satisfactory arrangement?—It would create a great deal of trouble, and I think it is better to throw the onus upon one party, and to attach a penalty upon it. There is a penalty, but it is hardly ever inflicted.

10954. Mr. *Clay.*] Do you think under the present system it is possible to detect a well concerted fraud?—It would be very difficult to detect it.

10955. Mr. *Sanford.*] Have there been any joint stock banks created in your neighbourhood?—We have never had but one till lately; we have had one a number of years, which has been conducted very carefully. The provincial Bank of England has just opened a few weeks ago, and we have another of our own turned into a joint stock bank.

10956. Do you think there has been any improper accommodation afforded to the agricultural interest by those joint stock companies?—Not in our part of the country.

10957. The improved condition of the farmers has not arisen from any additional accommodation having been afforded to them?—No, I do not think the farmers get much accommodation. I think credit is quite cheap enough; with us every man that ought to have accommodation can get it.

10958. Mr. *Miles.*] In the sales that have taken place in your neighbourhood, how many years purchase has land fetched?—There has been only one estate sold, which was 600 acres of land, sold in the Court of Chancery. The sale was opened once; it might be said to make more than 30 years purchase, that was the Tooley Estate.

10959. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] When you say that the farmers are induced by the present corn laws to look to high prices, what do you consider a fair remunerating price?—It is difficult to answer without knowing the rent.

10960. Supposing a farm of 20*s.* an acre, and to bear upon the average 20 to 22 bushels an acre?—I should say no man can afford to give 20*s.* an acre for that land with wheat selling at 45*s.*

10961. Mr. *Clay.*] Does not that depend partly upon the expenses of cultivation?—Certainly, and a great many other things.

10962. Mr. *B. Baring.*] You object to the present scale of corn laws, because it encourages delusive hopes in the farmer's mind; is not the farmer undeceived at present?—I think the farmer is anxious for some change in the corn laws, he does not know what; but he finds that he has not got the advantage that he expected to get. The fact is, that it is the seasons and himself that have brought these low prices upon him.

10963. The present corn laws no longer continue to raise their delusive hopes?—I cannot say, the men that occupy the poor soils are not very intelligent men.

10964. Would not any change encourage other delusive hopes?—Not if you were to lower the duty.

10965. It is for the advantage of the farmer to raise prices, is it not?—I do not think so, I am not of that opinion, I do not think it is the advantage of the farmer to have very high prices.

10966. What do you consider most advantageous to the farmer?—A steady price that the farmer when he goes to take land should look to some steady price and not look to adventitious circumstances to help him out of a difficulty.

10967. What is the effect upon the market of the present corn law?—It has no effect at all now; the supply of corn is a mere supply and demand amongst ourselves.

10968. In the long run what has been the effect of the present corn laws?—It has tended to keep up the price when we have had bad seasons.

10969. Do you think the present scale has had the effect of creating greater fluctuations of price than there would have been under a more reduced scale?—That is a question that I cannot answer, not having been in the corn trade, but I am certain that the corn laws have raised delusive hopes in the farmers.

10970. Mr. *Clay.*] You are decidedly of opinion that steadiness of price is the circumstance most important to the farmer?—My opinion is not in accordance with that of most people with respect to the interests of landlord and tenant; up to a certain point I hold that they go together, that it is the interest of the tenant to keep the land in good condition as it is of the landlord that he should do so, but his landlord's interest is to have a high price to enable him to pay a high rent, I do not think it is the tenant's interest to be clamorous about a high price, it makes very little difference to me whether I pay a high price or a low price, and I think

the country thrives better all around me if the price is a moderate one; It is better for me not to have a high price provided my expenses are in proportion.

10971. The farmer is a capitalist, and it is of importance to him to be able to calculate the returns upon his capital?—Just so.

10972. He would do that better and feel more certainty if he were sure of a steady price of wheat?—Yes he would.

10973. Supposing that the present system or any system of corn laws tends to produce fluctuation in the price of wheat, that must be ruinous in its consequences to the farmer?—There is no doubt of it.

10974. Mr. *Miles.*] Do you think you could do without protection altogether?—Not in the present state of things, I think we must come to that ultimately, but we must go by easy steps.

10975. But you think that the poorer class of farmers at present look to 60*s.* as the price at which wheat can be maintained?—Yes.

10976. Is it your opinion that upon the average of years prices can attain to that height?—It is my opinion that they cannot and that they will not attain 50*s.* with fine seasons.

10977. And the consequence is that the poorer farmers have fallacious hopes raised?—Yes.

10978. Mr. *Sanford.*] What should you say had been the average price of corn in England?—That brings me to the point that I was at before; I cannot answer that question without data upon which to answer it.

10979. But you stated that you would like to see a fluctuating scale of duty with the highest point at 60*s.*; what is the average price that you think that would be likely to produce in the market?—I think it would not produce an average of more than 50*s.* a quarter; I think that we ought to have expenses brought down till we can grow wheat at 50*s.*

10980. Mr. *Clive.*] Do you think that rents should be accommodated with a view to that?—I think they must be so.

10981. You think that as that necessity must arise, the sooner that is adjusted between landlord and tenant the better?—I think so; that is the reason why I think the present scale should be lowered. With reference to the parishes around me, here is an account of a small parish which is occupied by a great many manufacturers as well as farmer's labourers. To show the benefit that it is to agriculture that trade should flourish, I will just show how the poor rates have reduced in this parish without the aid of the new system of poor laws. In the parish of Anstye, close by myself, in 1816, the poor rates were 1,200*l.*; in 1818 they were 1,440*l.*; in 1820, 1,281*l.*; in 1830, 976*l.*; in 1834, 641*l.*, and in 1835, 516*l.*

10982. *Chairman.*] You attribute that decrease to the prosperity of the manufacturers?—Entirely. In 1818, I recollect that they were in a dreadful state, and out of employment.

10983. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] Which would you prefer, to take a farm at 20*s.* an acre rent, and receive at the rate of 7*s.* a bushel for wheat and other grain in proportion, or to hold your farm rent free, and receive 5*s.* a bushel for wheat and other grain in proportion?—It depends upon what kind of farm it is, because to a certain point I want my wheat for the expenses, but if I can obtain more than a certain quantity there is a surplus beyond the expenses that I have to make the calculation upon; but I do not think I can answer that question satisfactorily.

10984. Mr. *Miles.*] You are of opinion that a great many soils are put under the cultivation of wheat that ought never to have been put under the cultivation of wheat?—No, I do not say that they ought never to have been put under the cultivation of wheat, but there is a good deal of that land that used to grow wheat that it would be difficult to keep in the cultivation of wheat; bad worn out clay soils.

10985. Sir *Robert Peel.*] You think upon the whole the Legislature can take no better course than to leave agriculture alone?—No, that is just all I should ask as an agriculturist, that you would be so good as not to meddle with us at all; the thing is in a natural course of adjustment; I consider it a matter now resting between landlord and tenant, and only let the thing alone, and it will adjust itself; but if the Legislature interfere with it my opinion is that they will derange the thing.

10986. Do not you think it is much better that the agriculturist should understand that they will be let alone, and that they must trust to their own resources than

Mr. *John Ellis.*

22 April 1836.

than to excite in them false expectations of relief?—Yes, I do, and I was very sorry to see this Committee appointed upon that account, and I should be glad to see the question set at rest.

10987. Mr. *Clay.*] You would not extend that opinion so far, but that if it were possible by way of Legislation to make the price of wheat more steady it would be desirable to do so?—I should think that would be of great advantage.

10988. Mr. *Cayley.*] Are you aware that after the passing of the present corn bill the range of fluctuation within a given time was much less than under any former law?—That is a point to which I have not turned my attention.

10989. Are you aware that it was so laid down in the report of the Committee in 1833?—No, I never read the report of the Committee in 1833.

Mr. *Samuel Goodman,* called in; and Examined.

Mr. *Samuel Goodman.*

10990. *Chairman.*] WHERE do you reside?—At Hurstpier Point, in the county of Sussex.

10991. Do you occupy a large tract of land there?—Between seven and eight hundred acres.

10992. You are also the proprietor of the Brighton coach?—I am.

10993. What is the nature of the soil upon that farm?—Principally wet, stiff cold clays.

10994. Have you drained those clays lately?—Yes, I have nearly under-drained every acre.

10995. When did you take your farm?—Nine years, come Michaelmas.

10996. After all the expense you have been at in draining, is the farm in a greatly improved state, as compared with when you took it?—Considerably so.

10997. Do you consider that your condition, as a farmer, is worse than it was in 1833?—Yes I think it is.

10998. Is that owing to the low price of wheat?—Yes.

10999. What is the course of cropping upon your farm?—I do not farm under any particular rule. The way I have taken my farm has been to farm as I think proper, if I crop out of the usual course, to dress extra for it. I sometimes grow wheat after beans, sometimes beans after wheat, and seldom or ever have two wheat crops together, if I can avoid it. And though my clays are stiff clays, I have been able to grow Swede turnips. Sometimes I can feed them off, but if not, I am obliged to pull them.

11000. What is the produce of wheat upon your land?—I have grown about three sacks an acre, from the low state of cultivation in which I found the farm, but I have grown as much as four quarters to the acre.

11001. Do you grow oats?—I grow oats.

11002. What quantity of oats an acre?—The seasons upon my land have been very much against the cropping of oats, it is so very stiff; and my oat crop has been very small, not more than four quarters to the acre.

11003. What is the other produce upon your farm?—Beans and clover, and tares.

11004. Do you save any clover for seed?—I never save any for seed; it answers my purpose much better to cut it for hay.

11005. Do you think it answers a farmer's purpose to save it for seed generally?—In some soils, but not in stiff cold clays.

11006. Then it would be an advantage to those farmers if the price of clover seed was reduced; if the duty was taken off foreign clover seed?—It would be to that portion of them that do not grow clover seed, but whether it would be beneficial generally I do not know.

11007. Has there been any reduction of the expenditure upon your farm the last few years?—As to poor rates a very considerable reduction.

11008. Is your parish situated in any of the poor law unions?—It is.

11009. What is the name of that union?—The Cuckfield Union.

11010. What has been the reduction of the rate in that parish?—When I first took the farm I had as many as five 10*s.* rates in the year; and about six years ago I was appointed churchwarden of the parish, I then paid strict attention to the mode of relieving the men, I never gave them any money, but found them work, and in under-draining the lands I generally found in the winter a very great portion of work for the labourers then out of employment; a great number of our poor were then living in Brighton, and I found when I got into the office that they generally made a regular practice of coming to the parish meetings every week, for the purpose

89

Mr. *Samuel Goodman.*

22 April 1836.

purpose of asking relief during the winter months, from November till about March, and it was generally granted; the first thing I did in reforming this system was by ordering the whole of those persons home to the parish, I found then that very few of them came, and we got rid of this tax upon us; the other men that were out of work, wherever I could, I found labour for them, and if there was any man that had a notoriously bad character, that was the very man that I thought proper to employ, to try to reclaim him, and because nobody else would have him I generally took him into my employment.

11011. Then you had improved the condition of the poor in your parish before the New Poor Law was introduced?—Considerably.

11012. Has there been a considerable reduction of the poor rates since the introduction of that measure?—I think this last year we have saved about a six-and-sixpenny rate in the parish.

11013. Will you state what was the gross amount that you paid for the relief of the poor in 1834, and what you paid in the last year?—I cannot charge my memory, but the reduction has been considerable; I can state the money that I saved last year, since the introduction of the new Poor Law Bill, I think about 40*l.* for my share of the poor rates.

11014. What is the condition of the labourers now?—They are certainly not very well off; but I think there is a great deal of blame to be attached to the labourers, in not taking care when they have the means of putting by and providing for the winter season. The agricultural labourer's wages with us is nominally 10*s.* a week; but I have a number of men working with me, about three, or four or five, that will average 16*s.* a week in the winter time. I give my carters 10*s.* a week and a cottage to live in, and I make all the men pay 1*s.* 6*d.* a week for their cottages, except the carters; and at the end of the year, if they conduct themselves properly, I return them 18*s.*; that I insist on their laying out in clothes.

11015. Is that the practice of other farmers in the neighbourhood?—I do not know; it is an universal practice of mine ever since I have been there.

11016. Are you acquainted with a considerable tract of country in the neighbourhood of your farm, so as to state what the condition of the farmers is?—I am very sorry to say that, generally speaking, I believe it is very poor; they have very little ready money, and scarcely sufficient means to carry on their farms; I think it is a general complaint amongst the whole of us.

11017. Is the land cultivated by men with capital, or without capital?—I do not know that I can answer that question.

11018. Have you observed much improvement going on upon the farms of late years?—Very little.

11019. Have the rents been lowered within the last few years?—I took mine about nine years ago; the first four years I had it were extremely wet; I took it upon a lease of 14 years; upon the first farm that I took, my rent has never been reduced; but I have taken three farms latterly at considerably less rents than that which I have got under lease, quite as good land, some part much better.

11020. When you took this farm upon lease, what did you calculate would be the average price of wheat?—It was then about from 18*l.* to 20*l.* a load.

11021. Has your rent been reduced?—I never asked the landlord for any reduction of rent; if he did not offer it, I should never put myself in a situation to be refused.

11022. Have you any objection to state the rent of the farm you took nine years ago?—I paid 28*s.* an acre for it.

11023. Have you been assisted by your landlord in draining, or any of those improvements?—Not a shilling.

11024. Have you received fair interest upon the capital laid out in that way?—I am sorry to say that I have been losing a great deal of money by that farm.

11025. At what rate have you been taking other farms the last three years?—I have taken quite as good land as that, and some of it better working land, and I think capable of producing quite as much per acre, at from 8*s.* to 12*s.* per acre.

11026. Should you say that was a fair rent for that description of land at present prices?—I think it is quite as cheap as land ought to be, and rather cheaper; I make no complaint, as an agriculturist, against the rent of land; I think the rents have very little to do with the present distress.

11027. What do you think it can be attributed to?—I think to various causes.

11028. Will you state what your opinion is upon that subject?—I think that all property of every description is improperly rated, in agricultural districts in particular;

Mr. *Samuel Goodman.*

22 April 1836.

cular; I have a very great objection to the mode in which they are rated; I think that, if it is possible, all lands and houses should be rated the same at their rack-rents; whatever they pay, so they should be rated.

11029. What is the present practice of rating?—About two-thirds.

11030. Is there any difference made between houses and land?—A vast difference; nearly one-third.

11031. Is the county rate taken out of the poor rate?—The county rates, I think, press excessively heavy upon the agriculturalists from the same cause, because the house property is not rated for it.

11032. What is the amount of your county rate?—I believe our county rates are generally about 150 *l.*, from that to 160 *l.*, in our parish.

11033. What is the size of your parish?—I believe about 4,000 acres.

11034. Then you do not pay above one-fifth part of the 160 *l.* a year?—No.

11035. Is your land subject to tithe?— It is.

11036. Is it taken in kind, or have you made a composition?—It is not taken in kind.

11037. What is your composition per acre?—About 3 *s.* 6 *d.* per acre upon the arable and meadow.

11038. What proportion does that 3 *s.* 6 *d.* bear to the tenth part of the gross produce?—I should much rather pay the 3 *s.* 6 *d.* than the tenth part of the produce. I am not at all dissatisfied with tithes; it is a question, in my opinion, that ought to be let alone, and I am perfectly satisfied if every agricultural tenant would let it be at rest, they would be as well off under the old system as under the new.

11039. You do not wish to have a commutation of tithes?—Not at all; not the slightest alteration.

11040. Is there any land unoccupied in that part of Sussex?—Not an acre.

11041. If a farm was unoccupied would there be any difficulty in getting a tenant?—No; I would be ready to take any more land.

11042. Mr. *Loch.*] You would not be ready to take it at 28 *s.* an acre?—No.

11043. You said the rent seemed to you not to enter into the present distress of the farmer, now, if you have a farm at 28 *s.* an acre, and you have the rest of your land at 8 *s.* or 12 *s.* an acre, do not you think the difference of 16 *s.* or 1 *l.* an acre would make any difference to you?—It would make so much difference that I should not take it at 28 *s.* If land comes into the market at a fair price according to the present price of corn I should take it, but I am not ready to take a farm at 28 *s.* an acre. If my lease expired now, perhaps, I should be obliged to take that farm because it is so connected with my other business.

11044. Then the amount of rent enters most materially into the circumstances of the present condition of the farmer?—Whether it is high or low there can be no doubt, but I think the landed interest of the country have certainly met their tenants generally speaking tolerably well, and I know that it is a recommendation of persons that I have been connected with that they should fix a certain price upon their farm that the tenant could live at, and under those circumstances I have taken three or four different farms.

11045. Then those landlords have now met the times and the wants of the tenants, and an arrangement has been made between them which has brought the rent to a satisfactory state?—As far as I have been concerned.

11046. Then you do not mean to say, that the amount of rent does not enter materially into the present circumstances of the farmer, but it is an essential thing to look to?—It is a consideration when he takes his farm that he should consider what he has got to pay. There can be no doubt about that, and it is necessary that the farmer should look closely to what his expenses will be.

11047. What sort of draining is it that you have followed upon your farm?—My under-draining has consisted either of chalk or of bushes, for I had done the principal part of it before the duty was taken off tiles.

11048. Is it across the ridges or in the furrows?—Across the ridges.

11049. You have never tried making the drains up the furrows?—No, I have tried mole ploughing, and I think that will last about twenty years.

11050. What does it cost you per acre?—It depends upon the demand for labour; it varies from 2 *l.* to 3 *l.* and 4 *l.*; perhaps the average about 2 *l.* 15 *s.* an acre.

11051. That you have done without any allowance from the landlord?—I have.

11052. You never made use of any thing but chalk?—Chalk and bushes; and in meadows I have turned the turf, and I think that the best plan.

11053. Have

91

Mr. *Samuel Goodman.*

22 April 1836.

11053. Have your meadows been improved equally by draining as the other fields?—The meadows have improved more than the other. I think it is of no use manuring land without you under-drain.

11054. *Chairman.*] Does not a better description of grass come upon those meadows that have been drained?—Considerably.

11055. More nutrition?—Decidedly, and a heavier weight of hay after it is got into the stack; you find the trusses much smaller, but though they do not appear so much in the rick they are much heavier.

11056. Mr. *Loch.*] What is the difference in the expense of the two modes of draining you have pursued?—Between the turf and the chalk the only difference is the expense of the carriage of the material, and the thickness in which you are obliged to put the drains, in some lands you are obliged to go much thicker than others.

11057. How close do you make your drains in a stiff clay?—If I do it with a mole plough, I put them about seven or eight feet apart; and if I under-drain, and fill them up with chalk, perhaps they are double that distance.

11058. When you drain with a mole plough, you go up the furrows?—Yes, or else across the field, it depends upon where the springs are.

11059. What do you do with the ditches, do you scour them in the first instance?—If I take a farm out of condition, I begin with scouring the ditches, and after that I begin to drain, and then to manure.

11060. What is the depth of your drains?—From 18 inches to two feet.

11061. Do you purchase manure or produce it upon your farm?—I have paid as much as 700*l.* in one year for manure since I have been a farmer.

11062. Is that stable-yard manure?—All stable-yard manure.

11063. Did you find that outlay advantageous to you?—I think that outlay in that year saved me from ultimate ruin as a farmer, because till I laid out that money that land produced me nothing; and now I have got it into that cultivation, that though I pay 28*s.* an acre for it, I think it may save me from losing a great deal by it.

11064. *Chairman.*] That manure would not have been of any use to the land before it was drained?—None upon earth.

11065. You stated that that land would now bear as much as four quarters to the acre, what was the average produce of that land before it was drained?—I had not grown more than three sacks upon it, the first year I had it, that is 12 bushels.

11066. After land has been drained in the manner in which your farm has been drained, if it has been let at a fair rent, do you consider that a farmer occupying such land is able to go on under the present prices?—With the present prices, when we have been selling wheat at 8*l.* to 9*l.* a load, it is impossible that any mode of culture could enable a farmer to live at those prices.

11067. What should be the average price to enable a farmer to live upon such land as you occupy?—I think with an average price of 13*l.* to 15*l.* a load, there is a possibility of farmers living.

11068. That is about 60*s.* a quarter?—Fifteen pounds is about 60*s.* a quarter.

11069. Do you think it is in the power of the legislature to give any measure of relief to the farmer?—I do not think there is any legislative enactment that could benefit the agricultural interest particularly; but I think there are measures that might be introduced that would benefit them; those that I have before stated, by a proper equalization of taxation as to the burthens that come upon the agriculturist, which I conceive they have no right to bear over and above the shopkeepers. There are many shopkeepers living in the country who perhaps pay 20*l.* or 30*l.* a year for their house, and their returns in business will be 3,000*l* or 4,000*l.*, and they pay to the support of the poor and to county rates and highway rates about 20*s.* a year; and there is a farmer in the parish turning about 2,000*l.* a year that pays 150*l.* or 200*l.* a year. I think that is one of the principal causes of the farmers' heavy burthens, the bearing nearly the whole of the statute duty and county rates.

11070. Mr. *Sanford.*] Is there any government tax by taking off which you think the farmer might be relieved?—I am not a grower of barley, but I think it is the general opinion of the agriculturists that grow barley, that if there was a remission of the malt tax they would be benefited; but I do not think that would benefit them; I do not think it would be anything into their pocket; it would take a great deal from the revenue, but I observe from common observation riding through the country every day 80 miles, that the men are generally very jolly; that they have

Mr. *Samuel Goodman.*

22 April 1836.

quite as much beer as they know what to do with; and if they had it much cheaper I think we should find a difficulty in keeping them to work at all.

11071. Is there any other tax the remission of which you think would be beneficial to the farmers?—I have often heard people say that we want some protection from Ireland, that we are inundated with corn from there, and butter and cheese, and that they consume nothing except the flour the produce of this country, that all that they want they get from elsewhere, but I do not think we have got a surplus of labourers in the kingdom, and the impression upon my mind is that before many years we shall find a great difficulty to get the harvests in, and I do not know whether we shall not this year.

11072. In the parish of Hurst you have no sort of manufacture?—None at all.

11073. Have you any lime-kilns that employ many persons?—There are lime-kilns in the neighbourhood but they employ very few persons.

11074. Have you any large woods that employ a large population?—Very little, the land that I hold is all plain land, all under the plough or the scithe; I have not more than five acres of rough land.

11075. Mr. *Miles.*] You occupy 800 acres, and those are divided into certain farms, one is upon a lease of 14 years, are the others taken at a yearly occupancy?—They are all upon leases.

11076. Will you divide them into your different occupations, first of all the farm that you have at the 14 years lease how much is that an acre?—That is 160 acres at 28*s.* an acre; then there is another farm of 150 acres for which I pay 150*l.* a year; then there is another of 150 for which I pay 80*l.*; then there are 120 acres of land for which I pay 40*l.* a year; my landlord gave me 100*l.* to take possession of it, it was so wretchedly out of condition; I have another farm of 120 acres for which I pay 60*l.* a year.

11077. You state that your produce per acre is now four quarters of wheat, is that upon the land that you pay 28*s.* an acre for?—It is.

11078. What is the produce upon that which you only pay 60*l.* for the 120 acres?—It will be quite in the same proportion; last year I have not thrashed the whole of my wheat out, but that which I have thrashed out was nearly equal.

11079. Do you suppose that it is impossible to cultivate wheat now at the present prices upon that land for which you pay from eight to twelve shillings an acre?—At the present prices.

11080. What is the produce of the beans?—The last two years I have scarcely got the seed back; last year I did not get the seed back again, but I should say seven to eight.

11081. Mr. *Baring.*] Have you observed whether there was a much smaller breadth of wheat sown this year?—It was the impression last autumn that any man in his senses would not think of sowing wheat at the price that it was at then; now I differed most amazingly from the persons that thought so; I sowed every acre of ground that I could with wheat; I have at this moment 164 acres of wheat growing, and the whole of that dressed except four acres with horse manure; I thought if they thought proper to leave off growing that that was a reason why I should continue it.

11082. Do you think the farmers generally have sown less?—I think a great many persons have sown less wheat this year.

11083. Is there any great difference in the number of acres of wheat sown since you began farming?—No, I think the system is uniformly the same, that they have got a regular system of cropping; it is a very common thing for me to grow wheat in a field twice in three years, but if I do that I dress for every crop; perhaps I have a crop of wheat growing, now I shall reap it at harvest and plough that ground up in the spring; I dress it very strong for turnips and I pull those turnips and then I have a crop of wheat the following year again, so that I get two crops of wheat in three years; but that system would not do except in the case of a person locally situated as I am; I have about 100 horses stopping at my farm every night and I keep a great quantity of stock, perhaps more than I ought to keep; but I am so fond of the article of manure that I cannot help keeping a great deal of stock.

93

Lawrence Oliphant, Esq., M. P., Examined.

L. Oliphant, Esq. M. P.

22 April 1836.

11084. *Chairman.*] You are Member for Perth?—I am.

11085. Are you a large proprietor in Perthshire?—I am a considerable proprietor in Perthshire.

11086. Do you occupy much land yourself?—I may mention at once that all the acres that I shall speak of are Scotch acres; I occupy about 800 acres of my own.

11087. Have you turned your attention to the state of agriculture generally in the county of Perth?—I have.

11088. Has it improved of late years?—In my part exceedingly; the quantity of produce has increased exceedingly within the last 16 or 20 years.

11089. Has there been much furrow-draining introduced?—A very considerable quantity.

11090. Has that been the principal improvement?—That and bone dust.

11091. Is the soil of a light description?—The soil is very various; we have a great deal of red till, which is a coarse clay, highly impregnated with iron, and very full of stones.

11092. Do you find that bone dust is equally applicable to that soil as to the light sandy soils?—No, it is not; the furrow-draining is the principal improvement upon that soil.

11093. Is there a great produce of wheat grown in Perthshire?—The wheat has increased exceedingly upon that coarse till that I speak of from the furrow-draining. Upon a great quantity of land that never was attempted to be cultivated with wheat, it is now perhaps the best crop that can be grown upon it. I myself put a hundred acres of that land under wheat, which was formerly only adapted to a very poor crop of oats.

11094. Is that wheat exported principally to England?—No; it is consumed in the neighbourhood.

11095. What is the average produce per acre?—We have a fine clay, which is perhaps the best wheat land in Great Britain, which is not what I have before alluded to, that has also been furrow-drained many years earlier; it was there that furrow-draining began, and it was from the very great returns which were obtained upon the fine clays which are on a level almost with the sea, being only 10 feet above the sea, and evidently the deposit of some former sea; those were furrow-drained, and the great increase of produce obtained from that process induced us to attempt it upon the higher and colder stiff clays, and there we have succeeded equally well. The produce still is very much greater upon the low land than it is upon the upper, but we can grow five quarters of wheat easily upon the cold clay, and perhaps half a quarter more.

11096. Mr. *Miles.*] What did you grow previously upon the till soil?—In many parts it was not worth the expense of cultivation.

11097. *Chairman.*] Is the land in Perthshire principally let on leases?—Almost entirely on leases of 19 years.

11098. Upon a corn-rent or a money-rent?—It is now coming fast into a corn-rent; and in my opinion ought to be entirely a corn-rent. My opinion is, that we are fast shaking ourselves together right, and if we are only let alone, we shall, in a short time, have no complaints; indeed, as it is, we have not many. If the landlords would only look after their own interest, and attend to their own business, and take their rent in a corn-rent, and pay their jointures and annuities also by a corn-rent, I have no hesitation in saying there would be no complaint in the course of the next twenty years.

11099. Are those corn-rents settled by the fiars taken before the sheriff?—They are.

11100. You heard the evidence of the gentlemen who came from East Lothian and from Aberdeenshire?—I did.

11101. Are the fiars in Perthshire struck in the same manner as in East Lothian?—Not exactly, every sheriff appears to have almost his own law with regard to it.

11102. What is the mode of striking the fiars in your county?—I have not been upon the jury since the year 1830; I was then chosen foreman of that jury. The evidence appeared to me so extraordinary, that I, as foreman of that jury, would not consent to the striking of what is termed a second fiar, conceiving it to be impossible as we were summoned there to strike an average, that two averages were perfectly impossible. I applied to the sheriff for his Act of Parliament under which he

L. Oliphant, Esq. M. P.

22 April 1836.

summoned us there; he could not produce it; he talked something about a Sederunt of the Court of Session, which, however was not forthcoming; and the jury broke up, with striking simply one fiar, which is recorded; and in every other year there have been two. The process of striking the second fiars was this: the whole grain brought to market, given in evidence by the parties who are summoned at the discretion of the sheriff, was taken down; after having ascertained the average in the common process, without any further evidence at all, the jury said, "Oh, we will make a second fiar, 4*s.* or 5*s.* under the first;" and so it is recorded; and so the rents left upon the second fiars are paid.

11103. Mr. *Loch.*] Who are the persons summoned before the jury?—That is various; some sheriffs exclude the farmers; they were mixed in the year I speak of; but the sheriff asked generally if such and such grain had gone through two hands; that is, if it had been sold to a miller, and if so, it was excluded, but still it was very optional sort of work, and it appears to me to require legislative enactment to remedy the evil, which is fast becoming severely felt, from the reasons I have given; namely, that almost the whole of the agricultural interest are beginning to have their rents paid in grain; and besides that, the clergymen are all paid by this process; and it is a matter upon which we have some cause of complaint.

11104. Does the average apply to the whole of the rent or only to a portion of the rent?—That is of course according to the will of the proprietor; in many cases it is mixed.

11105. So that a part of the rent remains fixed, and another portion of it is affected by the fiars?—That is the case.

11106. You said that the clergymen of the Church of Scotland are paid also according to the fiars prices; that is payable entirely by the landlord, is not it?—It is.

11107. All outgoings in Scotland affecting the land are payable by the landlord?—All except road money.

11108. The poor rates are divided between the landlord and tenant?—They are by law, but it is very seldom exacted of the tenant; I am not aware of any part of Perthshire where the poor rate is exacted from the tenant.

11109. Have you a regular poor rate in your parish?—Not in my parish, but in one parish that I have land in we have, but not the principal one.

11110. Can you state what it is per acre?—Perhaps 50*l.* a year in the whole parish.

11111. Is it a large parish?—About 2,000 or 3,000 people.

11112. But poor rate is not generally established in that part of Scotland?—It is not, I am happy to say.

11113. How are the public prosecutions of the county paid for in Scotland?—It is by assessment upon a valuation which was made over all Scotland, I think about 200 years ago, in the reign of Charles the 2d, upon which all public burdens are rated.

11114. Is there an annual assessment of the county according to that rate, for the purpose of paying those prosecutions?—There is.

11115. Are not a part of them paid out of the charge upon the general revenues of the country?—Yes.

11116. All those that come before the Court of Justiciary?—I believe so.

11117. Is the rent you have spoken of what is in Scotland called the valued rent?—Yes.

11118. What proportion does the valued rent as established in the reign of Charles the 2d bear to the real rent as it exists now?—In the parish in which I have most interest I think the pound Scotch will nearly rate for a pound English.

11119. Is not that reckoned to be the case pretty nearly over all Scotland?—It is.

11120. You stated that you have a large farm in your own hands; you stated also that you have drained it considerably; can you state the cost of the draining per acre, and can you describe the process?—My process is this, it so happens in my estate that the old furrows were tolerably straight, the width of the furrows, originally, was five yards, and I put a drain in every alternate furrow to the depth of two feet two inches, which I cut at the expense of a halfpenny a yard; I then filled those drains with broken stones precisely the same as the road metal here to the depth of fourteen inches; I then put the turf upon the top of it, and plough in the stuff that was taken out; I then make two ridges into one, giving it a circle something like a turnpike road, so that all water passes then into the new furrows,

95

furrows, making one ridge into two; from that operation I have found the crop so even I could not tell where the furrow was when the wheat was in its ear, the furrows being generally better than even the top of the ridge; before I had often walked up a furrow without touching a head of wheat, fully losing three feet in every ridge by water.

11121. Do you know what it cost you per acre?—Under 2 *l.*

11122. Have you any notion what repayment, in the shape of interest, you have obtained from laying out that money?—I should say the first crop pays it over and over again. With my tenantry, in leases that I have made since I began this operation, I have contracted to cut one-half of those drains upon this principle for nothing, provided it is lined, and done according to my directions, which I hold to be equal to about 10 *s.* an acre.

11123. Then they cut the remainder of the drains and fill up all?—Yes.

11124. As to bone dust, you use it extensively?—I have used it to a considerable extent, and intend to use it to a much greater.—I am cultivating land now 800 and odd feet above the level of the sea, which two years ago was entirely covered with heath; I have enclosed it with wire fencing, at an expense of about 6*d.* a yard, stones in that part of the country being of a nature that do not stand the weather, well adapted for making furrow drains, but not at all for building walls, and I have fallen upon a plan of wire-fencing, with oak posts, with five wires complete, which costs me 6*d.* per yard.

11125. Do you prefer that to planting hedges?—I have attempted hedges; it is a hard matter to contend against a high climate and sheep.

11126. *Chairman.*] Are those wire fences capable of resisting cattle?—They will resist any thing; the fox hunters will complain loudly of the impossibility of getting over the country.

11127. What is the size of the top wire?—It is No. 8, the remainder are No. 6.

11128. Mr. *Loch.*] What is the effect of the use of bone manure upon land?—The possibility of growing turnips upon the top of the mountains.

11129. Have you grown turnips in such situations?—I have grown turnips at the height of between seven and eight hundred feet, better turnips than I have grown within one foot of the level of the sea.

11130. What is the rotation of cropping upon that land at that height above the sea?—I have no rotation, but I bring in the land with one or two oat crops, according to the toughness of the original sward, I then bone-dust it, and lay it out with barley.

11131. Do you plough it up again?—Not if it will give good grass.

11132. Mr. *Miles.*] Are you very particular in your choice of grass seed?—I have sown a good many of the new fashioned grasses, but I cannot speak to them as being of so great advantage as many people seem to think; the white and yellow clover and cow grass upon the very high lands is what I recommend.

11133. You of course use only two horses in ploughing?—Yes, except in trench ploughing after the furrow-draining, I then use six and sometimes four with a very large plough, not Mr. Smith's plough; I have tried Mr. Smith's plough, but I was obliged to give it up, it would not answer with my stiff clay with so many stones in it; it did answer exceedingly well in a particular soil, which is very common in Scotland, what we call a moor land, but in my land I found that a large plough upon the common principle was a better tool.

11134. When you use four horses how deep do you go?—About a foot to 14 inches.

11135. That is an essential improvement connected with the furrow draining?—It is.

11136. The furrow draining itself would not be so great an improvement?—Certainly not.

11137. Do you follow any rotation of crops upon the clay land?—Never two white crops following no fallows.

11138. What do you substitute for fallows?—Beans and Swedish turnips; I have here a statement upon a farm of a cousin of mine, upon the management of which I have been consulted; this was drawn up for another purpose, but I believe it may convey a good deal of information to the Committee; it is the expenses of working a farm of 220 acres; I have put no rent, because I hold rent to be a mere matter of bargain; I have put the expenditure upon the farm against

L. Oliphant, Esq. M. P.

22 April 1836.

the whole produce, leaving the Committee to say what rent that land ought to be.

11139. What soil is it?—It is a clayish loam.

11140. Will you have the goodness to deliver in that statement.

[*The same was delivered in, and read as follows*:]

Number on the Plan.	EXTENT in Acres Scotch.	CROP 1835. WHEAT.	BARLEY.	OATS.	BEANS and TARES.	HAY.	PASTURE.	GREEN CROP.	FALLOW.
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
1	19 1 14	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	19 1 14	—
2	15 - -	7 - -	8 - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
3	21 2 -	14 2 -	7 - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
4 & 5	20 2 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	20 2 -	—	—
6	13 - 15	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	13 - 15
7	11 1 34	- -	11 1 34	—	—	—	—	—	—
8	20 2 -	- -	- -	20 2 -	—	—	—	—	—
9	18 - -	- -	18 - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	11 3 -	- -	- -	- -	11 3 -	—	—	—	—
11	18 2 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	18 2 -	—	—	—
12	16 1 -	- -	- -	16 1 -	—	—	—	—	—
13	15 2 -	15 2 -	- -	—	—	—	—	—	—
14	9 2 27	- -	9 2 27	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	11 - 13	- -	11 - 13	—	—	—	—	—	—
	222 - 23	37 - -	65 - 34	36 3 -	11 3 -	18 2 -	20 2 -	19 1 14	13 - 15

			SOLD FOR £. s. d.	Average Price Per Quarter £. s. d.
37 - -	Wheat produced -	147 Qrs.	or about 31 ¾ bushels per acre - -	257 1 11	1 14 11
65 - 34	Barley - - -	368 „	or about 45 bushels per acre - -	520 8 -	1 8 3¼
36 3 -	Oats - - -	249 „	or about 55 bushels -	275 5 6	1 2 1¼
11 3 -	Beans and Tares -	76 „	or about 52 bushels -	135 - -	1 15 6¼
18 2 -	Hay - - -	- -	- - - -	144 14 4	—
20 2 -	Pasture - - -	- -	- - - -	61 10 -	—
19 1 14	Green Crop, 13 acres of which was in Turnips, at 7 *l.*, and 6 acres in Potatoes, at 10 *l.* - - - -			151 - -	—
13 - 15	Fallow - - -	- -	- - - -	Nil.	—
	Amount of (Gross) Produce - - - -			1,544 19 9	
	Deduct cost of Production - - -			804 16 -	
	Rent and Profit - - - - £.			740 3 9	

HAVING ascertained the Gross Amount of the Produce of a Farm, consisting of 222 Scotch acres, it now follows to be exhibited the probable Expense of labouring the said extent, and of producing the same: it is calculated that it could be worked by eight horses, and the necessary accompaniments and equipments, the cost of which would be as follows:

	£. s. d.
Eight horses, average 22 *l.* each - - - - -	176 - -
Eight close-bodied carts, at 8 *l.* each - - - -	64 - -
Four hay-carts, frames and trams (shafts) 50 *s.* each -	10 - -
Four frames for close carts, - - 15 *s.* - - - -	3 - -
Four iron ploughs, at 3 *l.* each; two bulking ditto, at 50 *s.*	17 - -
Four pair of harrows, at 30 *s.*; one break ditto, at 40 *s.* -	8 - -
Harness for four pair of horses, chains, &c. complete, at 8 *l.*	32 - -
Two rollers, turnip drill, bean barrow, fanners, &c. - -	40 - -
Thrashing-mill - - - - - - - - -	70 - -
Add, for implements omitted - - - - - -	80 - -
£.	500 - -

This we shall call fixed and perishable capital, which to maintain and keep up in like good order and condition, & to be left in the same at end of the lease; interest, at the rate of 20 *l.* per cent. will be allowed to cover blacksmiths,' carpenters,' saddlers,' & all accounts connected therewith.

Interest

97

L. Oliphant, Esq. M. P.

22 April 1836.

	£.	s.	d.
Interest on the above 500 *l.* at 20 per cent.	100	–	–
Maintenance of four pair horses, at 12 *s.* per week per pair	124	16	–
Four ploughmen's wages, at 25 *l.* per annum each	100	–	–
300 tons of bought manure, at 4 *s.* per ton	60	–	–
500 bolls of lime, at 2 *s.*	50	–	–
Casting and quarrying-stones for 500 chains—2,000 rods furrow drain	50	–	–
Women labour at green-crop land, making hay, filling drains	40	–	–
Seed for land, including grass seeds	140	–	–
Reaping 150 acres, at 10 *s.* per acre	75	–	–
One labourer, at 25 *l.*, and one ditto at 20 *l.*	45	–	–
Incidental expenses	20	–	–
Total Cost of Production	804	16	–

11141. Mr. *Cayley.*] There is 740 *l.* left for rent and profit?—Yes.

11142. Do you grow any turnips upon that land?—Yes.

11143. Do you breed sheep?—No; in the statement that I have given in, the turnips were sold upon the principle of being fed in the straw-yard of the farm at 6 *l.* an acre to a dealer, the farmer having nothing to do with the stock; the dealer was to pay 6 *l.* an acre for the turnips, he finding the cattle, and the farmer to keep them with straw and attend to them for the season.

11144. Were there many beasts fed upon this farm?—They consumed the whole of the turnips; the number of acres mentioned there at 6 *l.* an acre.

11145. Have there been any means of getting rid of the fat cattle in Scotland of late years that there were not before?—Within the last three years we have sent a great quantity of dead and live stock to the London market by steam and sailing vessels.

11146. Has that been a valuable increase?—A very considerable improvement.

11147. That advantage you did not enjoy before?—No.

11148. Are there any extraordinary circumstances connected with this farm?—No; it is the general farming of that part of the country.

11149. This land you say produces nearly 32 bushels of wheat per acre; is that an extraordinary quantity?—It is the Scotch acre.

11150. Is that farm situated in the Carse of Gowrie?—No; it is situated in Linlithgow.

11151. Are all the items of the ploughings and the different costs of cultivation included in your estimate?—The charge is for the maintenance of a pair of horses, I think, 12 *s.* a week; it is done in that way which I hold to be the better way of doing it.

11152. Is the original cost of the horses included?—Yes; because the expense of stocking amounts to 500 *l.*

11153. Is there much upland in Perthshire?—An immense quantity.

11154. The upland farmers have been doing very well, have not they?—We have all been doing pretty well except the men that grow nothing but wheat.

11155. But persons growing nothing but wheat have not been doing well?—Wheat farmers that took their farms when wheat was high, naturally cannot pay their rent with the present price of wheat.

11156. *Chairman.*] Do you mean money-rent or corn-rent?—Money-rent.

11157. Mr. *Cayley.*] Have you any inferior clay lands in your district?—A great quantity.

11158. Producing how much?—Without it is furrow-drained, little or nothing.

11159. Would it pay for cultivation if there was no rent upon it?—A great deal is uncultivated at present.

11160. Used it to be cultivated?—They might take a flying crop of oats off it, and leave it again.

11161. Was it the custom in the country at the time of better prices to cultivate that species of land?—A good deal of it was attempted to be cultivated; whenever it was drained in the least degree the tenant immediately succeeded, and that has been going on more or less ever since the war; so that if the new system of draining had not been followed to a great extent, that kind of land could not have been retained in cultivation.

11162. Do you know whether any whole farms consist of that species of land?—No.

11163. Do considerable parts of farms consist of it?—Considerable parts.

11164. Did a farmer who entered upon a farm of that kind take a flying crop of oats, and then neglect the farm altogether for three or four years?—Many of them did;

L. Oliphant, Esq. M. P.

22 April 1836.

did; the reason they did so, was from the high price of clover-seed preventing the small tenants from sowing out the land.

11165. How long has that species of land been in cultivation?—That system of flying-cropping has been in use for a long period; we find the marks of furrows even higher than we plough now, on land which never could have been cultivated regularly.

11166. But that clay land would not be situated very high, would it?—About 300 feet; from that to 500.

11167. Was that land cultivated before the war?—Never regularly.

11168. Was it cultivated as regularly as the other land?—A crop or two might have been taken off it, and then left alone for half a dozen years.

11169. Was it the general wheat-growing land of the country?—No; they never grew wheat till it was furrow-drained.

11170. How have the tenantry been in your district the last 10 or 15 years?—The price of potatoes in the London market has in a great measure enabled the tenants to pay rent, those that paid a money-rent.

11171. Had they the means of reaching the London market before the steam vessels?—No potatoes are sent by steam.

11172. Do they enjoy any advantage, with respect to the export of potatoes to London, that they did not enjoy 15 years ago?—The taste of the Londoners, till the year 1821 or 1822, would not eat a red potato. It so happened that we had nothing else to give them; but about that time they discovered that the red potatoes were the best, and as soon as they did so, we supplied them with any quantity they wanted.

11173. Is that the chief system of cultivation in your district?—Within 10 or 12 miles of a shipping port, throughout the whole of the east coast of Scotland, now.

11174. You have had the advantage of this new demand for potatoes since the fall in prices?—Yes.

11175. And that has prevented to a considerable extent the pressure upon you in consequence of the fall in prices?—It has very materially assisted where the rents were money-rents.

11176. Have the sheep-farmers been prosperous with you?—Wool has been fetching a good price.

11177. Do you recollect the time when it was a good deal lower than it is now?—Yes.

11178. Can you attribute the rise in sheep to any particular cause?—The general prosperity of the country, and the great quantity of food consumed by people who did not eat meat formerly.

11179. When did that prosperity commence?—It has been going on gradually; the great increase of population in the southern parts of the empire naturally requires a greater quantity of food.

11180. Has the prosperity of the manufacturing interest been advancing ever since the war?—The population has been gradually increasing since the war.

11181. Has the prosperity been increasing ever since the war?—It has had checks, but upon the whole I should say it has.

11182. Do you remember that in the year 1830, and for one or two years previous and for one or two years afterwards, the adversity of all classes was complained of in the King's speeches?—I do.

11183. Did you disbelieve that statement in the King's speech?—I did not disbelieve it, because it was the fact for the moment, but it was only temporary.

11184. Do you remember whether the rise in wool preceded or followed the late prosperity among the manufacturers?—I cannot answer as to the dates in that respect.

11185. If the rise in wool preceded the late prosperity of the manufacturing districts, would you say that the prosperity of the manufacturing districts was consequent upon the rise in wool?—I think that the opening up the foreign markets, particularly of America, has tended very much to increase the demand for woollen goods in this country, which, to a certain degree, has assisted with the other causes I have given to increase the demand for wool.

11186. If the rise in wool took place before the late manufacturing prosperity, would not that rise in the raw material rather tend to check both the home and the foreign demand for the manufacture?—The demand seems to have been so strong as to bear up against that increased price.

11187. If the higher price of wool preceded that manufacturing prosperity, it can

99

L. Oliphant, Esq. M.P.

22 April 1836.

can hardly be said to have been consequent upon the manufacturing prosperity?—I did not say that it was so.

11188. You were understood to say in answer to the question, what was the cause of the rise in wool, that it was the manufacturing prosperity?—I said that the increase of the manufacturing prosperity permitted a different class of people to be consumers of meat; at the same time the manufacturers manufacturing a greater quantity of goods for exportation, added also to the price of wool, and made the price of sheep considerably higher than formerly.

11189. Do you remember that there was an extensive pestilence among the sheep flocks in England in the years 1830 and 1831?—I only know it from newspaper report.

11190. Did not you know it from the advance of price that took place in sheep about that time?—I cannot say that was the cause.

11191. As a Scotchman, and your flocks existing upon the hills, and therefore not being liable to rot, should you not reap the advantage of any rise in price that succeeded to a scarcity of sheep?—I hardly think it would affect Scotland, because our sheep do not answer the English soil.

11192. Is not it a common practice to see a great many Scotch sheep travelling upon the road?—I am not aware of any Scotch sheep coming to England except fat. We send a great many dead fat sheep, and there may be a few live sheep, but none from our part come to England.

11193. If there was a scarcity in England occasioned by the rot would not that increase the price of the fat sheep as well as the lean?—Naturally.

11194. Therefore you were gaining an advantage in Scotland which the lowland districts of England did not obtain?—Certainly.

11195. Have you any advantage with respect to your note circulation which England does not possess?—We have 1*l.* notes throughout all Scotland.

11196. Do you think them an advantage to you?—Certainly.

11197. Do you know any reason why the English farmer should not enjoy that advantage as well as the Scotch?—Were it possible to give the English community the same security that the Scotch community have with respect to the issues of those notes I should say that it would not be a disadvantage to them, but I think from what we have seen already with reference to 1*l.* notes in England that it is not possible to afford them that security, and that they are better as they are.

11198. You think the people of England are so poor that they cannot afford to give equal security with the Scotch?—It is not the poverty but it is the knowledge which is required.

11199. Do not the main benefits of the Scotch system of banking arise from the joint stock system?—From the joint stock system, coupled with the knowledge that each banker possesses of the security and funds of his neighbour bankers, and in fact the Scotch bankers have, if I may so term it, a clearing-house once a fortnight or once a week in Edinburgh; if any joint stock bank should be running riot and issuing a great deal more notes than the other bankers thought they were capable of redeeming they would not do business with them, and in that way the whole system is kept in check of one another and works very well; I do not think over the wide extent of England such a system could be practicable, and I therefore think that the farmers and the community at large are better off under the present system of sovereigns.

11200. Is that because you think the English bankers more ignorant than the Scotch bankers?—It is not from ignorance, but from the wide extent of country that I do not think it is possible to systematize it, at least in less than an immense length of time, into the way in which we have it conducted in Scotland.

11201. Is not the district of every joint stock bank in Scotland a very extensive one; do not the notes circulate extensively?—That will depend very much upon the parties.

11202. Are there fewer banks in Scotland, in proportion to the number of acres than there are in England?—I am not aware of that, it may be so.

11203. If there are a fewer number of banks, and those banks be of a larger description, the probability is that their business extends over a wider space of country?—Certainly.

11204. If the English bankers circulate their notes over a less district of country, they are more likely to be acquainted with the circumstances of those parties living within that limited district than if it was a more extensive one?—They are.

L. Oliphant, Esq. M.P.

22 April 1836.

11205. Therefore they are more likely to be cognizant of the circumstances of the parties with whom they deal?—It is not exactly with whom they deal, but there is no check; England is so wide that one banker cannot check another from the want of the general clearance that takes place one a fortnight at Edinburgh.

11206. Are you at all acquainted with the system of English banking?—I am not, except that I know that there are a few joint stock banks established.

11207. Are you aware that if there are two rival bankers living in the same place, if the one banker issues notes, and those are taken up by a farmer, and he pays those notes over to another person, and that other person takes them to the rival banker, that then that rival banker immediately sends them back to his brother banker?—I suppose that would be the process.

11208. If that process may take place in the course of a week or ten days, is not that an immediate check upon the over issue of any bank?—It would be.

11209. If the English bankers be thus cognizant of the affairs of the people immediately living within their district, and if there is this immediate check upon their issue, can you state any further reasons why 1*l.* notes should exist in Scotland and not exist in England?—I can give no other reason than what I have already given; that I do not think the knowledge required is sufficient in England to guarantee the general issue of 1*l.* notes.

11210. You seem to imply, in one of your answers, that the 1*l.* notes in England have been the cause of considerable mischief, will you state what mischief you think they have been guilty of?—I allude to the great failure in 1825.

11211. Will you state what you consider to have been the cause of those failures?—Over issue one cause.

11212. Do you think that over issue could not have taken place without the 1*l.* notes?—They were a great stimulant to it; it was possible to over issue without them.

11213. If the 1*l.* notes be a stimulus to over-issue, does that tend to give the banker in Scotland a great facility in issuing his paper?—It does.

11214. Therefore the Scotch banker is better able to accommodate the farmer in Scotland, in consequence of the 1*l.* notes, than the English banker is able to accommodate the English farmer?—I think that is the principal use of the 1*l.* notes; it is not from the 1*l.* notes themselves as an accommodation to the farmer, so much as it allows the banker to derive a certain interest out of his 1*l.* notes, and which he gives in credit to the farmer; and it is in that way that I look to it principally as of advantage to the farmer.

11215. It is a great accommodation to the banker, as well as to the farmer?—Certainly.

11216. Do you think that if the standard of value in 1825 had been different from what it was, and had been depreciated, the over-issue, which you say then took place, could not have beeen carried on as safely as the present issue is carried on upon the present standard of value?—I do not think the standard of value had any thing to do with it.

11217. You think that the standard of value has nothing to do with the question?—I think not.

11218. Was the standard of value altered by Mr. Peel's Bill of 1819?—Yes.

11219. Will you describe how it was changed?—I am not prepared to give all sorts of notions of Mr. Peel's Bill; my notion of the standard is, that we had better let it alone; that if we meddle with it we shall do a great deal of harm. No doubt Mr. Peel's Bill originally might have caused a little derangement in money payments, but I think we should be doing a much greater evil were we to disturb it now.

11220. The question was with respect to the effects of Mr. Peel's Bill, and whether our standard of value was changed at that time?—By the resumption of cash payments.

11221. Do you conceive that the mischief caused by Mr. Peel's Bill was that it produced a great fall of prices?—All produce was affected by it; the price of every thing must be affected by a change of standard.

11222. Are you at all acquainted with English farming?—No, I am not, except that if I had capital to lay out, I think I should buy land in England in preference to Scotland.

11223. Do you think Scotland is too far north?—No; but I think there are many thousands of acres of the best land in England yielding only one-fourth part

part of the produce, which a very small amount of intelligence and industry applied to it would quadruple.

11224. You think it is from ignorance on the part of the farming interest in England that that land is not made profitable?—Yes, in a great measure.

11225. But that land, with all the ignorance of the farmers of England, used to be profitable during the war and before the war?—The term profitable is a vague term; I look to the quantity of produce extracted out of the earth; the term profitable may depend upon the rent and other outgoings altogether different from what I allude to.

11226. Are not you aware that by putting in an extra dose of capital into the land you may make crops grow almost upon a deal board, but that the expense may not be repaid by the crop?—I do not know any land in England that has come within my knowledge, as to which I am not satisfied that if I were to purchase it at the market price, and expend any capital upon it, it would return more than five per cent. upon the prime cost of the land and the capital expended.

11227. What do you think is the interest that a landlord is now making for his land in England, who bought it 20 or 25 years ago?—It would depend upon the good or bad bargain he might happen to make.

11228. Upon the average, what should you consider it to be?—The money price of land has fallen; I do not think the price in years' purchase has fallen; on the contrary, I should say it has risen.

11229. You would say that of England?—I should say that of Great Britain.

11230. Do you say that from your own knowledge from any general observation and inquiry upon the subject?—I say that from my general knowledge of land, more particularly of Scotland; but I believe England too, and that is the natural consequence of the great fall of the rate of interest.

11231. Do you think that upon money laid out in land 25 years ago, the interest upon the purchase-money has not fallen below the ordinary rate of interest at the present day?—It probably has in land where there was not a systematic course of improvement going on.

11232. Can you account why the land which in England paid a profit before the war, does not pay a profit now with the present system of cultivation?—I do not know what is meant by profit.

11233. By profit is meant paying the mere expenses of cultivation, without any reference to rent?—If I were asked as to the quantity of produce, I could answer it; but the word profit is so indefinite, it must depend upon contingencies altogether different.

11234. Can you explain why the same species of land which could be cultivated without a rent to advantage before the war, cannot now be cultivated to advantage with the same prices existing?—Because in other parts of the country land has been found, and men of capital and science have got upon that land, and brought a quantity of produce into the market, which has driven out the slothful and ignorant man who cultivated the land alluded to.

11235. Would not the slothful and ignorant man be inclined to put his spade into the best land that he could find?—He might, but ignorance prevented his knowing where the good land was.

11236. Do you conceive that the slothful and ignorant man, since the war, is more ignorant and more slothful than he was before the war?—I think that a greater quantity of science and capital, within the last few years, has been exercised by a very considerable portion of the agriculturists over the country, which have brought under cultivation great tracts of land which formerly were not cultivated, and driven out of cultivation the land occupied by another set of men, who naturally complain that they cannot cultivate their lands upon the present prices, those prices being reduced from the great increase of produce brought into the market by the parties alluded to; that is, I may say, perhaps, more particularly by the extension of bone-dust to the inferior soils of England.

11237. Do you think the system of cultivation has gone back in England, general speaking?—No.

11238. Then you think that those men whom you designate as ignorant and slothful men, cannot repay themselves for cultivating land, even with all the advantages of improved husbandry?—Not till the consumption shall have eaten up the additional supply poured into the market by the still progressing uplands.

L. Oliphant, Esq. M. P.

22 April 1836.

11239. Have you ever made a comparative estimate of the increase of the growth of wheat, and the increase of the population since the fall of prices?—I believe it was a very general opinion, at the time of the first corn law in 1815, that this country could not produce anything like what it consumed. The consequence was, that both the farmer and the proprietor conceived that, by getting the ports shut up to a particular price, the monopoly would be complete with regard to our own produce. It certainly was so, but the increase of cultivation has far outstripped the consumption, and our low prices are now attributable simply to two or three good years and the increased cultivation by bone manure and furrow-draining.

11240. Do you know how much the population has increased since the war?—The population at this moment is increasing at 880 souls per diem over Great Britain and Ireland.

11241. Do you state that as a fact?—I do.

11242. From whence do you derive it?—From the population returns of 1831 compared with the population returns of 1821. I say that, after all emigrations and every other deduction.

11243. What does that amount to since the war?—That I could not say off hand: it is a matter of calculation.

11244. Have you ever gone into any accurate calculation taking the whole increase of the population since the war, as to whether the increase of produce has been sufficient to meet that increase of population?—It has outstripped it very considerably.

11245. Will you give the data upon which you found that conclusion?—I derive it from the corn returns.

11246. How do the corn returns show that? we have imported none for three years?—From the year 1803 to the year 1815 or 1816 this country imported vast quantities of grain. Before the year 1800 this country for the eight years before that was stationary. For many years previous to that period this country exported a vast quantity of corn; it therefore follows that we are not only able to supply ourselves from our own soil, but the low prices are the effect of our soil growing more than we can consume, even to exportation.

11247. If, for some period previous to 1800, we exported; and if for a certain period succeeding that we were stationary, neither exported nor imported, and from the next period, namely, from 1803 to 1815, we did not export, but were obliged to import, does not that show rather that the population was treading upon the heels of the supply?—The vast consumption of our army in various parts of the world required a very great exportation to supply our troops in Portugal and other places.

11248. Would not those human mouths be obliged to be fed if they had remained at home?—The loss, in many cases was great; perhaps whole fleets of produce might be destroyed by a storm.

11249. Can you speak as to any given quantity having been exported in any particular year, or succession of years, during that period?—I know that such was the fact: I cannot state the quantity.

11250. Do you mean to found the conclusion that the production has increased upon the fall of prices?—I do.

11251. You take it as the main basis of the calculation, that prices have fallen, and therefore you are led to the conclusion that the supply must have exceeded the demand?—I do not take it as a conclusion, but it is a fact that the supply has far outstripped the demand, notwithstanding the 880 souls added to the population every day, because we have not gone to our neighbours for a single bushel of grain the last three years.

11252. Have not there been extraordinary crops the last three years?—There have.

11253. Have you any right to calculate upon more than the average supply?—I think science will go a great way to prevent the weather having its hitherto usual effects upon crops.

11254. Do you mean that the agriculture of the country can be made independent of the weather?—I do not say independent, but it is certain that as we ameliorate the soil we ameliorate the climate, that I have no hesitation in saying; the furrow-draining to a certain extent will ameliorate the climate.

11255. Do you remember the sudden fall of prices immediately after 1820?—I did not turn my attention so much to those matters in 1820 as I do now.

11256. If

103

11256. If there be a great progressive increase of cultivation the tendency would be for the price to fall gradually, not suddenly?—Certainly.

11257. If the prices have at various times fallen suddenly, it might have arisen from some other cause than the progressive increase of cultivation?—It is possible, but I do not see any likelihood of it being any other cause than what I have stated.

11258. Mr. *Young*.] Do the poor-rates and county-rates as they are made upon a valuation of 200 years ago, press unequally at present?—They are entirely paid by the landlord. It is possible that from some men applying a greater quantity of capital to their land, and giving now a greater quantity of real rent upon a given valued rent, that the assessment might be unequal with reference to the present rental of the land, but we never complain of it.

11259. What is the size of the farms generally?—In highly cultivated counties they are very large; in East Lothian they are, some of them, a thousand acres.

11260. What is the size of the smaller farms?—The smaller are one or two hundred acres.

11261. Is the present tendency to increase or to diminish the size of farms?—As the power of cultivation increases the small farms are united and put into one farming. It is impossible in this country altogether to bring a great quantity of waste land under cultivation at one time, as the small farmers are driven out of one particular part of a gentleman's estate he generally endeavours to put them upon some other waste lands at a small rent, to bring them into something like cultivation, and in the course of the next 30 or 40 years those people are again turned out to make room for larger farmers.

11262. Both the quantity and quality of the corn raised upon a large farm is superior to that upon a small one?—It is.

11263. This year is there less wheat sown generally than in the last few years?—There is.

11264. With regard to the labouring population how are they off?—Our labourers are very well off indeed. I pay my labourers 9*s*. a week.

11265. *Chairman*.] Do you pay them all in money?—I pay the labourers all in money; but I have eight ploughmen who receive from ten to twelve pounds a year in money; a cow, which is mine; they are bound to rear me a calf for two months, and they have six bolls and a half of meal, each boll being 140lbs. weight generally, with a house.

11266. Mr. *Young*.] With regard to the state of education among those people, are they generally able to read and write?—They are; there is not a man in my parish, nor a woman, that cannot read and write.

11267. *Chairman*.] You spoke of the high price of clover seed and the disadvantage that was to the small farmers?—It is felt exceedingly; it amounts to more than half-a-crown per acre of direct tax.

11268. How much of that is duty?—The whole of that is duty. If a man sows 14 lbs. of clover seed to an acre the duty is about 2¼*d*. per lb.

11269. Do you find there is any difference between the foreign clover seed and the English clover seed—which do you prefer?—There is no great difference, but it is a matter of no consequence which we sow because the price of English clover seed is enhanced exactly to the extent of the duty.

11270. Mr. *Miles*.] Is there a great difference between the cultivation of Scotland and England?—There is in most parts; there is some very fine farming in Northumberland, but, generally speaking, I should say, that upon the soil of England the produce might with very great ease be doubled.

11271. Its productive qualities are not sufficiently drawn out?—Nothing like it; it astonishes a Scotchman who comes to England to see so fine a soil under so fine a climate lying in such a state.

11272. Mr. *Cayley*.] Have you ever heard of Scotch farmers coming to England and taking farms?—I have.

11273. Do you find that they get very rich?—A man changing his situation perhaps is not able to take the advantages that a native would were he possessed of the same knowledge.

11274. Although a man for the first year or two might not know how to deal with the labourers, and not be aware of all the peculiarities of the climate, yet, in the course of a few years, he would become acquainted with those things. Can you assign any reason why the Scotch farmers, who are so clever and so skilful, when they are transplanted into England do not make very large for-

L. Oliphant, Esq. M.P.

22 April 1836.

tunes?—I believe, in many cases, they have not calculated sufficiently upon tithes and poor-rates and other things with which they are unacquainted.

11275. Then the tithes and poor-rates may operate as so heavy a tax upon the farmer as to prevent his getting any benefit?—The tithe and poor-rate become a matter of rent.

11276. You stated that there was less wheat sown in your district this year than usual, why is that?—I believe that at the time of wheat-sowing it was a very bad season, and it was partly owing to the season and partly the indifference of the tenant whether he took wheat or a spring crop.

11277. Did he sow less wheat because wheat was at a lower price?—Because barley was at a proportionably higher price.

11278. Then he sowed less wheat because wheat was less profitable?—Yes.

Martis, 26° die Aprilis, 1836.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Shaw Lefevre.	Marquis of Chandos.
Mr. Sanford.	Mr. Miles.
Mr. Evans.	Mr. Robert Clive.
Mr. Young.	Mr. Dunlop.
Mr. Baring.	Mr. Wodehouse.
Mr. Heathcote.	Mr. Cayley.
Mr. Handley.	Mr. Pelham.
The O'Conor Don.	Mr. Clay.
Sir James Graham.	

MR. SHAW LEFEVRE, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *John Hancock*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *John Hancock*.

26 April 1836.

11279. Mr. *Sanford*.] YOU were examined before the committee in 1833, were not you?—I was.

11280. Are you still in the occupation of the same land you were at that time?—Yes.

11281. Have you any observations to make with regard to the state of agriculture in the neighbourhood with which you are acquainted which you would wish to add to the evidence which you gave in 1833?—Yes, certainly it is worse than it was. Wheat has gone down from 1*s*. 6*d*. to 2*s*. a bushel.

11282. At the time of your evidence you stated that very little rent at all was paid; that there was very little remuneration on much of the land in your neighbourhood; the Committee are to collect, therefore, that you consider the farmers in your neighbourhood now are in a worse state than they were at that period?—Certainly.

11283. Is that general, or only on the poor land?—It is general; worse on the poor land than on the best land, except on good breeding farms where they breed cattle; they live at less expense; they have been better off, and I think they get better paid.

11284. What has been the state of the crops in the last two years since you were examined?—Pretty good; very good.

11285. Has there been more than an average season?—I think it has been more than an average; it has been all well saved; the harvests have been early the last two seasons; there has been no waste at all. I think we have had a full average crop the last two years.

11286. Which was the best harvest, that of 1834 or that of 1835?—I think 1834 was rather the best crop for wheat.

11287. Are you able to state what you conceive to be the average crop of good land?—About twenty-five bushels an acre; we are inclosed with high trees and hedges; we cannot grow as much as we should if it was open land; ours is an inclosed country, and the trees and hedges deteriorate the land a great deal.

11288. Has barley been a good crop?—Yes, particularly good the last season; and the quality altogether I consider was superior to that of 1834, both wheat and barley, but I do not think the quantity of wheat grown exceeded that of 1834.

11289. Have

Mr. *John Hancock.*

26 April 1836.

11289. Have the other articles of agricultural produce been remunerating?—No, certainly not in part. In 1834 and 1835 the mutton and beef was very low indeed, selling at about 4½*d.* and 4*d.* a pound alive, and this year the beef and mutton have risen in consequence of the failure of turnips and the failure of grass, which had been almost universal all through the kingdom; in the best low lands there have been very few turnips saved; those saved have been in the higher land, where they were not destroyed by the palmer worm which appeared about the first week in August. In the year 1803 a similar thing having happened, (I recollect it was in 1803 in consequence of being the first turnips I ever grew on my own account) they were at that time all destroyed; a little later in, the second, about the second week in July, I observed to my sons, when I was walking out on Sunday, that I saw this fly, and it was the same fly which preceded what we termed the black army. I said, in about a fortnight we shall see, and they came at that time very small, about the size of a pin's head on the turnips. I discovered them for nearly a week before I heard any person speak of them; in ten days they grew to about an inch long, and about the size of a straw mote, and in the course of a fortnight or three weeks they destroyed almost all the turnips.

11290. In consequence of this loss of crop of the turnips you do not think the farmers in your district have been benefited much by the increase of the price of cattle?—Not at all, we have had nothing to sell; those farmers who have benefited at all from the price of mutton have been the graziers in the marsh lands; they bought the sheep very low in September and October, and the grass grew a great deal soon after we had rain.

11291. Have you been put to a very considerable expense in fattening the stock which you have upon your land, any extra expense in consequence of the loss of your turnips?—Yes, an extra expense. I keep about 600 sheep; they have eaten about 500 bushels of oats this year, and chopped hay as much as two men can prepare during the winter; and my sheep have eaten more corn and hay this year than they have in the 34 or 35 years I have been in business, myself and my father before me. I never had a sheep rack before or a trough; we have been obliged to keep all our sheep by chopped hay and corn this year and what grass we had, and our cattle have been put to hay very early. I keep about 24 working oxen, and from 14 to 16 horses of all descriptions; they have been all confined to the courts and stables eating hay ever since the first or second week in August 1835, an instance I never knew before.

11292. In consequence of the low price of wheat has there been much less land sown to wheat the last year?—I should think much less, one-fourth, and from that to one-fifth.

11293. What have the farmers done with that land which ought to have been sown with wheat in the regular course?—In consequence of the failure of turnips they were obliged to let the leyland remain in grass a year longer, and more is sown to barley and flax.

11294. Has there been any new crop introduced into the country to supply the place of the wheat crop?—The last three years flax has increased very much in our neighbourhood, where the land is good and calculated for flax.

11295. Do you think that a beneficial crop to the farmer?—He can sow few acres a year; I do not think a farmer on 100 acres of mixed land can sow more than from six to eight acres out of 60 of arable, to do himself much good, for the flax must be sown on the best of the land, and it must be clean and put in a very good state as to manure, or the crop is not certain.

11296. It is not a crop which can be adopted on the poor land?—No, it must be the very best of the arable land.

11297. Can it be adopted on the heavy clay lands?—Not so much to advantage; there is some of the heavy land will do very well when it is in a good state, and in a good season; but the best loam soils and sands are best adapted for the growth of flax.

11298. To what extent do you apply those observations, in point of district?—I should think from Wellington, or in fact all the way from Tiverton up to the end of our county, close to Yeovil and Sherborne.

11299. An extent of 40 or 50 miles?—Yes, the growth of flax has increased; it had almost got out of use, from the very low price, when corn came down so low it induced persons to grow more flax; the price of flax increased the last two or three years.

Mr. *John Hancock.*

26 April 1836.

11300. What is the general character of the soil of that county?—The general character of the soil of that county is rich sand, stone brush and loamy soils; they sow turnips and wheat after flax, and wheat is generally prosperous after that crop; and turnips after flax is generally very good, where it is not too heavy a soil.

11301. The persons occupying that land you consider to be in a worse state than they were in 1833?—Certainly.

11302. Can you suggest to the Committee any remedies which you think would give them relief?—I do not know that I can; the principal remedies, I think, must be between landlord and tenant, in a great measure. I do not think we can be benefited much, as to taxes, unless the malt tax were taken off, that would ease our farmers and cause them to grow much more barley; ours being a county for sheep, I think it would benefit the farmers a great deal, and would cause a great consumption of barley.

11303. You are unable to suggest any remedy that could give relief, except a remedy between landlord and tenant?—Yes, I think the Irish produce has kept down for the last two or three years our produce rather lower; but I think that if Ireland is to be considered as an integral part of our country, the same as Devonshire to Somerset, or Somerset to Dorset, they ought to bear the same burthens as we do with regard to poor rates and taxes, and every thing of that kind.

11304. Do you not think a very considerable reduction of rent already has taken place?—On the best land I think it has been about 15 per cent. since about the year 1832.

11305. What reduction do you think had taken place previously to that?—Not much in the best land in our district, except in certain instances, some lands that were let very high had been reduced; but I think that there was not much reduction generally till 1832.

11306. Since that period about 15 per cent.?—Yes; there have been some reduced more perhaps, but I think that is about the average.

11307. What further reduction would be necessary?—If wheat was to continue at 5*s.* I think no rent could be paid to keep the land in a fair state of cultivation, nor but very little rent with beef and mutton at 4½*d.* a pound; that has got up in consequence of the failure of grass and turnips, but still it does not benefit but few of the farmers, as I have said before.

11308. Mr. *Heathcote.*] Are there many small proprietors in your part of the country?—Yes, there are.

11309. Then a reduction of rent would be no advantage to those that cultivate their own ground?—No, not to persons of their own estates.

11310. What is the condition of those small proprietors?—They can just move along.

11311. Are many of their estates mortgaged?—Yes, a great many of them, no doubt.

11312. They find great difficulty in paying the interest of the mortgage with the falling price of corn?—Yes, and many elder branches of families have had the estate given them, subject to annuities.

11313. Is there any idea in that part of the country that the price of bread is too high for the price of corn?—I think that the baker has nearly the same profit on baking a sack of flour at this time as he had when the price of corn was much higher.

11314. Do you live near any great town?—I live seven miles west of Taunton.

11315. Are the county rates in that part of the county burdensome?—They are; perhaps on a rental of about 2,000*l.* or 1,800*l.* a year, they are about 30*l.*

11316. Do you find those rates are levied with difficulty on the very small occupiers and owners?—Yes, certainly, and we find a difficulty with the poor rates with the small farmers.

11317. The small farmers you state can hardly pay the rates?—In some instances that is the case.

11318. Do you conceive a plan could be devised by charging them to the consolidated fund, by which those smaller occupiers could be partly exonerated from county rates?—Certainly that would be beneficial.

11319. Do you conceive that would be a great advantage and very practicable?—Yes.

11320. Do you think it would cause any invidious or bad feeling among the others?

others?—No; the tenants and occupiers of land would feel that they ought to have it as well.

11321. They ought to pay less rent if they paid more rates?—Certainly.

11322. You conceive it would be an advantage both in getting rid of many vexations, and at the same time, in some measure, be a relief if those smaller occupiers and owners could be relieved from county rates and other rates?—Yes, I think it would, and I think that poor rates where the rate is under 4*l.* to 6*l.*, it would be better for the landowner to pay the rate, for they find it difficult sometimes to get the poor rate under a certain amount, therefore for property rated from 4*l.* or 6*l.* a year, the poor rates to be paid by the owners, and those small sums we find a difficulty in getting them in.

11323. Marquis of *Chandos.*] Have the poor rates in the county of Somerset diminished since the New Poor Law?—We have not the system working in our neighbourhood yet; we have had the Poor Law Commissioners down, and unions were formed; we expect in May to go on with the New Poor Law.

11324. Are you to be understood to say that the county rate is 30*l.* on a rental of 2,000*l.*?—Yes, from 1,800*l.* to 2,000*l.*; the county rate is about 30*l.*

11325. Have you ever turned your attention to the means of relieving the farmer?—I think that the principal relief must be between the landlord and the tenant and what can be saved from the poor rates; what little taxes we pay do not affect us much, for on farm houses and windows, and on the riding horse it is very small.

11326. Mr. *Heathcote.*] Do you save any clover seed in Somersetshire?—We do a great deal after the first mowing the after grass seed.

11327. Are you aware that it has been proposed to take off the protecting duty of 1*l.* a cwt. on clover seed; do you think that would be an advantage or a great disadvantage to the farmer?—A great disadvantage.

11328. You are aware that those who buy their seed would gain an advantage?—Perhaps they would.

11329. You think, that though a great advantage in some cases, it would be a great local injury?—Yes, it would to our county and some part of Devon. We generally grow clover seed after the first sowing, notwithstanding the seasons have been so favourable the last two or three years, the clover seed generally has been a very bad crop, although the appearance of it was very good. There is a small fly, that lays its eggs when the seed is in a glutinous state, and the insect destroys the seed; I recollect the last season it had every appearance of a good crop, but I cut it for hay, and put some salt with it, about a quarter of a hundred to every load of hay; two or three days afterwards this clover hay began to ferment, and that brought out these insects innumerable, it was very near the barn door, and the barn door and lintels were covered with the insects.

11330. The *O'Conor Don.*] Are you aware what quantity of clover seed is imported into England?—No.

11331. Are you aware whether there is a greater quantity of foreign seed imported and sown than our own growth?—The greatest quantity we use in our county is grown there, we grow it for our own use.

11332. Mr. *Heathcote.*] You think that the growing of clover seed though an advantage to the agriculturist, in your part of the country, is attended with uncertainty?—It is attended with uncertainty in some seasons, but we have generally, in two or three years, a good crop.

11333. Mr. *Sanford.*] Is not there a prejudice in that part of the country that frequently clover seed imported fails?—Yes; the seed by not being kept well will not succeed. The turnip seed and flax seed, and all sorts of grass seed should undergo a certain heat in some kiln or in the sun; if kept over a year it will vegetate in part, and it will not grow well. We sometimes get some of that mixed up by the factors with the other bright seed, and sent down to the country, and a great part will not grow.

11334. Contrary to the usual experience of farmers that the foreign is better, the farmers in that part of the country prefer their home grown seed?—Yes; sometimes they will buy a few pounds for change of seed.

11335. *Chairman.*] Taking off the duty on clover seed would not check the price of English clover seed, would it?—I should think it would.

11336. Mr. *Cayley.*] Speaking of the county rates, are the Committee to understand

Mr. *John Hancock.*

26 April 1836.

understand you to say, you paid only 30*l.* a year on 2,000*l.* rental?—No; on 1,800*l.* or 2,000*l.*

11337. That is about 3¼*d.* or 3½*d.* an acre?—Yes.

11338. It would be a great relief to you to get rid of that?—No; I do not think it would be a great relief.

11339. Do you think the fall of prices has been the main cause of your distress?—Yes; certainly the price of wheat.

11340. Were not you examined in 1821?—No, I was not.

11341. What do you think has made the condition of the farmers so bad since that time?—The low price of wheat, we have been selling the best white wheat at 5*s.* the last 12 months.

11342. What has the low price come from?—From the number of potatoes in a great measure among the lower classes, which they prefer eating to bread, and I believe the higher classes too get fried potatoes for breakfast, and many prefer them to bread.

11343. When did this change in taste begin?—More so from 1829 to 1830.

11344. Was there any fall in the price before 1830?—Yes; we had a fall in the price in 1822.

11345. Did they not eat potatoes then?—Yes; they have been grown to a considerable extent for the last 30 years, but I think they have been increasing much of late; and since the allotment system came in, the poor people grow much more than they did before, and many small farmers let out potato ground, to make up their rental; they can make by that more than by any thing else.

11346. Do you remember the time before the war?—Not much before the war.

11347. You remember the prices of the war?—Yes.

11348. They were very comfortable price were they not?—It were better perhaps if it had never occurred, the high price was the worst thing we ever had during the war, perhaps too, for the farmer.

11349. Because you had to come down again?—Yes.

11350. What made you come down so suddenly after the war ceased?—Some have attributed it to the currency being contracted, but whether it was so or not I am not able to judge.

11351. You have a pretty shrewd guess, perhaps, whether it was the change of currency that caused the fall?—I am not able to judge myself of that.

11352. What do the farmers in your country think of that?—A great many of them think that the change of the currency has lowered the price to what it is now.

11353. Have they ever had any public meetings upon the subject?—Yes.

11354. Had they ever moved any resolutions respecting the change of the currency?—That was objected to.

11355. Can you tell who was the mover and seconder?—It was Mr. Faulkner that stated that to be the cause.

11356. Who seconded that resolution?—I do not know who seconded it; in fact there was no person seconded it; I think he only gave it as his opinion.

11357. Did you yourself take any part in those proceedings?—I was there.

11358. Did you express any opinion upon that subject?—Not upon the currency.

11359. If you were to state that one thing had been more the cause of the fall of price than another, would you state that to be the currency?—I rather think, certainly the currency had something to do with it.

11360. How have the prices of barley been the last two or three years?—Tolerably fair, a moderate price; it cannot be grown for less.

11361. In your neighbourhood was there any deficiency in the crop of barley in 1833 and 1834?—Yes, we had the best crop of barley that we have had for the last five years in the last season; in 1834 it was tolerably good.

11362. Would any deficiency of crop tend to raise the price of barley comparatively above the price of wheat?—It may; and what the taking off the malt duty may do I cannot say.

11363. A scarcity of crop would tend to raise it, compared with the price of wheat?—Yes, the last season, from the commencement, from October to the present time we were rather lower in price, just about our neighbourhood, by sixpence a bushel, than they were in the neighbourhood of Sherborne and Yeovil;

109

Yeovil; we are more of a cider country; but in that country barley was within sixpence or ninepence of the price of wheat.

11364. Is your barley lower than it was?—Rather lower, if any thing.

11365. You are a maltster as well as a farmer?—I am.

11366. Has your stock of malt been good this year?—Mine was pretty good, and much about the same as usual; I have only a home consumption, no brewery; my trade is among private individuals, farmers and so on.

11367. To what do you attribute the present high price of meat?—To the loss of turnips.

11368. If there was to be a good crop of turnips this year, you think the price of meat would probably fall?—There is no question of that; I think the high price of beef and mutton has been occasioned by the failure of the crop of turnips and grass.

11369. Was there a failure of sheep stock in consequence of the rot?—Yes, about 1827 or 1828.

11370. Did that cause a rise in the price of sheep?—Yes, and I think we shall have a very deficient crop of wool this year, one-sixth less than last year; no doubt of it.

11371. Do you think the price of wool has been sustained in contemplation of that?—I dare say that may have some effect; and I have no doubt that the woolstaplers think that the crop will be injured from some of the sheep being almost starved, that it will break when it has been checked and then grown again; very often the staple is weak and will break off.

11372. Would you say that there is no means likely to relieve the farmer so much as a rise of prices?—Certainly not; that is if we could sell wheat at about 64*s*. there would be no grumbling.

11373. Nor distress among the farmers?—No.

11374. You think that would be the best mode of relief?—Yes, if our rent came down in a fair proportion.

11375. You say that at the price of 5*s*. a bushel for wheat, which is about the average price paid for the last year, the wheat land would bear but very little if any rent at all?—No.

11376. How would such prices pay rent then?—It is no good to say any thing about rent, if the wheat is to remain at 5*s*.

11377. A rise of price is the principal thing to relieve the farmer?—Yes, or the wheat must go out of cultivation; I am a large holder of wheat myself; I have not sold any these three years, I think.

11378. *Chairman*.] If rents were to be raised in consequence of the rise in prices, do you think it would then be an advantage?—I do not think they can raise the rent; I think the farmer would not raise the rent at all; he has been suffering long enough, putting what little extra property of his own he had to it.

11379. You think that the rents would bear lowering?—Yes, I think that land in our neighbourhood, taking it for any extent, is rented as high as any land in the kingdom; our best average farms about 35*s*. an acre.

11380. You think that rents are too high for the present prices?—Certainly.

11381. And if the prices were to be raised, rents would be only at their proper level?—I suppose some gentlemen have not made what I may call a regular abatement in per centage, but on rent-days have presented 40*l*. or 50*l*. without saying any thing of abatement; still they were expecting things would be better; we all agree that we cannot raise wheat at the price it has been the last two years particularly.

11382. Mr. *Cayley*.] They have been in some measure content to remain upon their farm in expectation?—Yes, and if they have a little property of their own, they put that to it; if they do not lose much of the principal they go on in hopes it will be better. I have known some that have been obliged to get out of their farms and have come to poverty.

11383. Mr. *Miles*.] Has any abatement taken place in rent since 1833?—I should think on the best land, about five per cent., and not more; in the whole ten or fifteen, on the average of the best farms. There has been on the rent-days perhaps sometimes given back 20*l*. or 30*l*. on half a year's rent of about 200*l*. or 250*l*.

11384. On your best land, how many quarters of wheat can you grow per acre?—We cannot grow more than three, or 25 bushels on the average; we are enclosed a great deal; our enclosures, run to six, eight or ten acres, and out of

Mr. *John Hancock.*

26 April 1836.

that we have almost an acre occupied in hedges and trees. Our hedges at the base, without the ditch, are eight feet, spoiling eight feet on each side more. Gentlemen reserve the trees, and those hedges are made once in seven years; and that is the reason we cannot grow more wheat.

11385. What rent could you afford to pay at present prices?—At the present prices of wheat at 5*s.* and beef and mutton at 4½*d.* per lb., the prices for sixteen or eighteen months past, I do not think we can afford to give more than 18*s.* or 20*s.* per acre.

11386. *Chairman.*] What is the condition of the labourers in your neighbourhood?—They are pretty well off when they are employed; but they all wish wheat was 8*s.* to have more job-work and higher wages.

11387. Are many out of employment?—Not many; we must support them.

11388. Has there been any reduction of wages?—Yes, during the winter months; but they generally got up again after Lady-day last.

11389. Do you think the wages are sufficiently high to admit of a rise of prices, without raising them?—No, we should be able to give more wages if we had a higher price.

11390. If prices were raised, the wages must be raised also?—Yes.

11391. Would the other expenses be increased also?—No, because the wages of carpenter and smith, and so on, have never been reduced.

11392. You have overpaid your carpenter and bricklayers, masons, &c.?—Yes, all the handicraftsmen have been paid from 12*s.* to 14*s.* a week.

11393. They have been overpaid?—Yes.

11394. Have you made attempts to reduce them?—Yes, we have; but they do not like it, we employ less of them, and do as little as we can with them.

11395. Mr. *Miles.*] When a farmer underlets potato land, what does he let it to the labourer at?—He generally lets it at 8*l.* per acre; and he does all the plough-labour and manures the land.

11396. At what charge are the allotments per acre now?—They generally are from 50*s.* to 3*l.*

11397. The same nature of land?—Yes, and they pay no rates; sometimes they get a quarter of an acre for 15*s.*

11398. They hold those allotments as long as they conduct themselves properly?—Yes; there is one evil sometimes arises from allotments, where they have not straw the labourers thieve a good deal from their masters.

11399. Do you think the moral condition of the labourer is improved?—I think they have gone back since the Beer Bill.

11400. Since the allotment system?—No; I think some are willing to work, and are very industrious men, and I think, taking them as a class together, they are a very good kind of servant; but there will be some bad men among them who do not like to work, drunken, idle fellows.

11401. Mr. *Heathcote.*] Is the allotment system very extensive in your neighbourhood?—Not very extensive; I think one quarter of an acre, one-fifth, or one-sixth is enough to one man; I should not be inclined to allow more.

11402. You think that in consequence of the allotment system there is a greater desire for potatoes?—Yes; it is not altogether the allotment system, but that many small farmers who have land have let potato land to labourers to pay their rents better.

11403. *Chairman.*] Do you think there is less wheat sown this last year than usually?—Yes.

11404. Are there any farms out of cultivation in your neighbourhood?—None that I know of.

11405. Have there been any farms to be let?—Yes, and some have been let at less; but I think the competition is so great for farms, if the leases were cancelled, the farms would be re-let, as they know not what else to do.

11406. Have those farms lately taken been let at reduced rents?—Yes, some of them.

11407. Marquis of *Chandos.*] Are they tenants at will or under lease?—Some of each; the great portion tenants at will; since the last leases fell in, while things have been in an unsettled state, they did not like to take leases.

11408. Mr. *Sanford.*] There is no disposition on the part of landlords or tenants to leases?—No; landlords do not like to let leases at the present prices; they do not think that wheat can remain in its present very low state.

11409. Marquis of *Chandos.*] Do you consider the situation of the farmers in Somersetshire

Somersetshire now better or worse than it was in 1833?—Much worse where they have nothing but their capital on the farm.

11410. Are the Committee to understand that, generally speaking, throughout the county of Somerset the farmer is worse off than he was in 1833?—Certainly.

11411. *Chairman.*] Is the grazier worse off?—The last year has been rather in favour of him where he has been keeping sheep, unless where he has suffered from the want of grass.

11412. Have the farmers much stock of wheat on hand?—Yes, they have.

11413. Has the price been getting up?—Yes, but the last week the price has been down again.

11414. What was the price the last market day?—About 6*s.* or 6*s.* 3*d.* at Taunton, that is all white wheat; we sell by the bushel; about 48*s.* or 49*s.* per quarter, that is the highest price, except about three weeks ago it did sell at 6*s.* 6*d.*

11415. Are you to be understood that last week in Taunton market the price was only 6*s.* 3*d.*?—Only 6*s.* and 6*s.* 3*d.*; we have not had more than 50*s.* to 52*s.*

11416. Mr. *Sanford.*] You are yourself a large holder of wheat?—Yes, I am, unfortunately so; I hold from 14,000 to 15,000 bushels.

11417. *Chairman.*] Is your land tithe-free?—I have some of my own tithe-free of hay and corn.

11418. That corn you hold in hand is of your own growth?—Yes, except a portion of tithe, which after the death of my brother-in-law, three years ago, my wife came into possession of; that has been taken in kind. I think I hold about 14,000 or 15,000 bushels.

11419. Marquis of *Chandos.*] Will a rise of price be beneficial to the farmer generally?—Yes, for the price of wheat has been so very low, the growth of flax has increased, and there has been some remuneration for that, and that has supplied the farmers with a little money.

11420. A small farmer who was obliged to sell all his crop will not be benefited by the rise?—There are many small farmers who have sold every thing; they will not be benefited.

11421. To the farmer who is in bad circumstances, and generally speaking they are in bad circumstances, this rise in wheat will not be beneficial?—Certainly not; but there are some who have much less corn in consequence of having grown flax.

11422. Mr. *Miles.*] Should you call Somersetshire a grazing or corn district?—There is a great deal of grazing land from Taunton to Bridgewater, and from Bridgewater to Bristol, up the marshes, and from Glastonbury to Wells; but all the other part from Yeovil to Taunton is generally of a mixed farm; we generally breed our own cattle and sheep.

11423. The land of Somersetshire would come more under the description of grazing land than corn district, would it not?—I think not.

11424. Mr. *Evans.*] There is a great deal of draining introduced into that country?—Yes.

11425. At whose expense is that?—Sometimes there is an arrangement between the farmer and the owner to divide the expense.

11426. Do not you find that the land is much improved by draining, and that you can pay rent with greater facility?—Yes; but it takes some time to return the money; I have kept fifteen men draining, &c. on 100 acres since Michaelmas.

11427. *Chairman.*] Is yours stiff soil?—We have some stiff, but principally sandy and loamy, and what we call stone rush.

11428. Has the land you speak of been drained with tiles?—No; sand and other stone, we break them into small pieces of about four inches diameter, and stone it about 20 inches deep.

11429. Is the object of those drains to take off the springs?—Yes; our land is very undulating, we are subject to springs more than almost any other county; they are not to be found in midland counties; we get more overshot mills from water than in any other parts.

11430. When the springs are cut off, does not the land improve?—Yes, almost immediately, but still it will take a considerable time for the return of

Mr. *John Hancock.*

26 April 1836.

the expense. I think it costs us about 3*s.* for 20 feet in length, for digging, carriage, and laying in the stones.

11431. When land has been drained, all the manure you put upon it tells for as much more?—Yes, that would tell almost immediately. I think I have drained as much land as any tenant farmer in the county of Somerset. I do not think I have laid out less, within the last 25 or 30 years, than 2000*l.* in draining.

11432. Is the tithe taken in kind in your neighbourhood?—Yes, a great part of the tithe in the hands of laymen or rectors they generally take it in kind; though I think the last year or two they have not been so desirous to take it in kind, since wheat got so low; then they sell it on a view of the crop before harvest.

11433. Are your tithes taken by composition?—The small tithes are.

11434. Are you desirous of having a commutation of tithe?—Certainly; I think that would do away with a great deal of unpleasant feeling, and the land would be farmed much better, and we should go on with a better heart in the management and improvement of the farm.

11435. Do you happen to have seen the Bill before Parliament for commuting tithe?—I have.

11436. Do you approve of its provisions?—I do generally; whether its averages will not be too high, I cannot say.

11437. Do you think you could take the averages for the last seven years?—The average price of wheat for the last seven years has been about 7*s.* 6*d.* up to Michaelmas, 1835.

11438. Supposing you were asked the value of your tithe for the last seven years, do you think you could state it accurately?—I think I could: the question is whether there are moduses or not in the parish; there is no modus in some parishes. I know some where the tithe has come nearly to one-fourth of the rental.

11439. That depends on whether the rent is too high or too low?—No, with the rent for the best land; some of it let within the last two or three years, at 40*s.* an acre; some at two guineas, to pay all rates and taxes: there, I think, the tithes have amounted, both great and small, to from one-fourth to one-fifth of the rental.

11440. Mr. *Miles.*] What proportion will that bear to the produce?—Upon 100 acres of land the gross produce has not been much more than 4*l.* an acre for the last two years.

11441. That is one-tenth of the gross produce?—Yes.

11442. Mr. *Heathcote.*] You state, where the tithes are taken in kind the parties seem to like the present Bill, but that the parties who have paid moduses do not like it?—There are various opinions: there are some clergymen and some tithe-owners say the averages will be against them; and the land-owners say, on the other hand, the averages will be against them.

11443. You think that generally, where they are under compositions for tithe, they are rather against it?—Yes, I think they are: with regard to tithe, it operates as a very great drawback to agriculture in general; and, if I may use the popular adage, they will hang themselves, to plague their neighbours. Some farmers will not sow, because it would benefit the clergymen or the proctors; some, if the parson or proctor do not please them, will not sow such a crop, although they would lose by it.

11444. Mr. *Miles.*] Can you suggest any improvement in the Bill?—In the clause by which it is put at 60 or 75 per cent., I think, generally speaking, that is rather too much allowance. In our neighbourhood, where the lands are tolerably level, unless there were particular circumstances, I do not think it would cost so much as 25 to 30 per cent. to take in.

11445. *Chairman.*] How much does it cost to collect the tithe in that neighbourhood?—It varies very much from situation; near towns, the proctors or rector can sell their straw to a great advantage; but there are other parts that perhaps are five or six miles from a town, where the roads are bad, and so on, that it is almost worth some part of the tithe to collect it.

11446. Mr. *Heathcote.*] Are you aware there is a great uncertainty that if the tithe-owner was obliged to take it in land he would be liable to repairs and accidents of failure of tenants, and so on; therefore the certainty of his tithe-rent must also be taken into consideration?—Certainly.

11447. Is it your opinion, upon the whole question, that the tithe should be voluntary or compulsory?—I think it should be compulsory after a certain time; I am of opinion a great portion of tithes, if they are left voluntarily for a year or two, would be compounded for, if they knew it was to be compulsory afterwards. I think two years would be sufficient; I would wish to have it compulsory.

11448. Mr. *Miles.*] Would what is deducted from the tithes depend very much upon the description of parish?—Yes, if small tithes were to be taken in kind, they would cost a vast deal; and if there were a law passed that there should be no circulating medium between the tithe-payer and the tithe-owner, I think they would be glad to come to a commutation, however bad.

11449. Is there not a great difficulty in compelling the payment of small tithes?—Yes, the agistment tithe, the tithe for wool, sheep, and that for grass-seeds, and the small tithe hay, would be a very perplexing thing in some parishes; that hay is a great tithe in some parishes, and in others a small tithe.

11450. Are there not many parishes in the county of Somerset which may be called mixed districts?—Yes.

11451. What deduction would you make from the gross amount of tithe taken in kind, for their mixed nature?—I think about 20 per cent. on mixed lands in our neighbourhood within 20 miles round, where the lands were pretty good, perhaps much more in some poor lands where the roads are bad in the west; after we get to Wivescombe, we get to the north of Devon, over a poor district of country that scarce nobody will like to live in by and bye if things continue as they are.

11452. Still tithes must be collected?—Yes, but that is a more breeding country; they breed cattle; they do not grow much wheat, except for their own consumption, and oats.

11453. Mr. *Evans.*] Is the tithe or the rent paid most readily?—They pay rent most readily; many persons have an idea that the tithe does not belong to them.

11454. Mr. *Sanford.*] Do not you think it would be advantageous to any tithe landlord to have a clause, giving the power of redemption?—Yes, the greatest proportion of them, when it was understood between all parties that this question was to be settled, would get at it in earnest, and would settle it.

11455. *Chairman.*] Do you think, if there was a voluntary Bill without a compulsory clause, that would answer the purpose so well?—No, I think they would be a long while in doing it, and that they would be putting it off from time to time, one thing against another; and I do not see myself much difficulty, if people go at it honestly and fairly.

11456. You cannot suggest any mode of relief the Legislature can apply?—The produce from Ireland affects us; it supplies the Welsh market with a great deal which used to be supplied by our own produce for the coal and iron mines, and to Liverpool also; but now we send very little that way, not one-third so much as we used.

11457. You consider that the application of poor laws to Ireland would go far to benefit you, that the Irish would consume a greater portion of their own produce?—Yes, I think so.

11458. Supposing the effect should be that it should tranquillize the country, and there should be a greater flow of capital into Ireland, there will be a greater produce?—Yes, but then there would be a greater consumption in their own country; I should think they would all live more comfortably, and not be half starved, and so on.

11459. Mr. *Evans.*] Do you think, if poor laws were introduced into Ireland, the poor would be fed on wheaten flour?—Yes, and with the beef and bacon, and so on.

11460. From what sources would that be supplied?—They would have trade, I think.

11461. Do you know what the food of the lower classes is in Ireland?—I believe milk and potatoes.

11462. Do you think, if the poor were supported by public funds, they would consume a higher sort of food than they do at present?—Yes, I have no question that they would consume more wheat and more beef and bread, and things of that kind.

Mr. *John Hancock.*

26 April 1836.

11463. Mr. *Miles.*] If the introduction of poor laws into Ireland were carried, would it not create a stimulus for labour?—Yes, in my opinion.

11464. Mr. *Evans.*] Are you aware there are upwards of three millions of acres in Ireland which might be brought into cultivation?—I have heard so.

11465. Would there not be a surplus to dispose of which would find its way into this country?—Yes, but perhaps then we should not have so much in corn, wheat, and so on.

11466. Mr. *Miles.*] Do you think that the English farmer would fear the Irish farmer, if he had poor laws and the same burthens?—No, I think the English farmer would not fear any one on the face of the earth under the same circumstances.

11467. *Mr. Evans.*] Are you aware that there are no poor laws in Scotland?—Yes.

11468. Does not the Scotch produce meet the English produce?—I believe I have heard it has much improved latterly.

11469. It would require some legislative interference to keep back the Scotch corn?—I think that the three countries are one kingdom, and should be treated as such.

11470. *Chairman.*] In Scotland where the rates are exceedingly low the rents are in consequence very high?—Yes, and the wages higher, I believe.

11471. If the poor rates were heavy in Scotland, would not that have the effect of reducing the amount of the rent?—I do not know; I suppose it may.

11472. Mr. *Sanford.*] The growth of flax produces a vast quantity of labour for poor people does it not?—A great deal of labour.

11473. A larger quantity of labour in proportion for the agricultural population than any other crop which is grown?—Yes, considerably so, I think, in the parish I live in, and all the neighbouring parishes; in ours we have a population of 450, I think six to eight labourers would have been four or five months out of employment the last two or three years, but for the growth of flax to employ the surplus labour.

11474. What is the profit made by the farmer on an average crop of flax?—About 3 *l.* if they get a good crop.

11475. How much is expended per acre in labour?—I think on an acre of flax it will cost about 11 *l.* the labour, the seed, the rent and so on; the labour itself will come to about 6 *l.*

11476. How many pack an acre can you grow?—A pack is 240 pounds, generally they tie it up in dozen pounds, and twenty dozen is a pack; if we get about two packs an acre, we consider that a good crop. I think it could not be taken at more than five and thirty dozen an acre, though this year I have grown myself nearly three packs an acre, for we had a very favourable season this last year, a fine season for putting it in; it is rather a hazardous crop; we had some rain just about the second week in June, which is just when it comes into bloom, that made the crop good.

11477. What will be a remunerating price per pack to the farmer?—They will grow it at the present price, being from 6*l.* to 6*l.* 10 *s.* per pack, 6 *l.* 15 *s.* some have fetched; there are various qualities, take the average from six guineas to 6*l.* 10*s.*

11478. What rent would that allow the farmer to pay?—That would allow the farmer to pay about 40*s.* an acre for the best land, then there is manure and other things, the manure of the land would cost the farmer from 3*l.* to 4*l.* an acre, the rest would be in labour.

11479. At what period of the year is that labour?—In the winter months; we find it very convenient when we have a few acres of flax, in the depth of winter we can put about half a dozen hands in the flax shop, and take them out on a few hours notice to do other work if required.

11480. Mr. *Evans.*] Is not that one of the most scourging crops you have?—No; I am of opinion no landowner should suffer a tenant to grow on about 60 acres of arable land more than six to eight acres in a season, for the land ought to be in a good state of cultivation.

11481. It does not produce manure?—No, it does not; but the wheat crop thrives well after flax; I very seldom saw a bad crop of wheat after flax.

11482. A good crop of flax leaves the ground very clean?—Yes, the dropping of the leaves of the flax on land, and it does not impoverish the land so much as potatoes

115

Mr. *John Hancock.*

26 April 1836.

potatoes nor mangel wurzel either, for that kind of root creates a great deal of manure.

11483. Where is your market for flax?—Yeovil; that is the only market in England for flax, I believe.

11484. Is that for the manufacture of linen? Yes, sail cloth, sacks, &c.; I believe the last two or three years what has made the English flax sell better is that the manufacturers have found the English flax superior to the foreign, that they used more of it, and that has been the reason that the price of flax has got up a little.

11485. Mr. *Sanford.*] You think from your experience as an old flax grower that it is a crop that might be very profitably introduced generally throughout the good lands of England?—Yes; a fair profit for the quantity that can be sown, particularly in the county of Somerset. I know the county from Yeovil down to Crewkerne, Chard and Ilminster, and even to Wellington, the flax has been grown ever since I can recollect to advantage; I have been always accustomed to flax; my father was a manufacturer of flax into dowlas and sail-cloth; but when the cotton got into use the flax got out, and that was the principal wear of the lower classes at that time; then my father declined the business or he was advised to go to the north of England to begin the cotton trade, if so I might have been a cotton spinner and better off.

11486. Do you think you should have been better off as a cotton spinner?—I think I might.

11487. Speaking from experience, has the growth of flax increased or diminished of late years?—It has increased the last three years; but I think when the price of corn was higher flax got down, about six or eight years since to 4*l.* a pack; I sold some flax of my brother-in-law, grown six or seven years, in the year 1831, for about 4*l.*

11488. Mr. *Miles.*] Was not there formerly a protecting duty on flax?—Yes, I recollect when there was a bounty given to all those who grew flax.

11489. Since the duty has been taken off foreign flax, has the growth of English flax increased?—No, the flax ceased to be grown but little for some years; at that time we always used to steep the flax in pits, that is now all gone out of use; it used to be fetched from the land, steeped in the pits, and stay for about eight or nine days, then it was taken out, and spread on the land, turned five or six times, exposed to the rains, and so on, to bleach it, and prepare it, to rid it of the skimp part. The skin of the flax on the outside is the only part that is good now. We do away with all the steeping system, for the manufacturers, by some chemical process, have been able to bleach it without.

11490. What was the original duty on foreign flax?—I do not recollect; from 1812 or 1814 the growth of flax decreased up to this time, as almost all corn was higher in proportion than flax.

11491. Mr. *Evans.*] During the war flax kept very high?—Yes, and corn got high during the war as well as flax.

11492. Was flax dearer in proportion than corn?—No.

Mr. *Robert Hatch Stares,* called in; and Examined.

Mr. *R. H. Stares.*

11493. *Chairman.*] YOU reside at Droxford, in Hampshire, do you not?—I do.

11494. Do you hold a large quantity of land in your own hands?—Twelve hundred acres.

11495. Is that your own property?—About 500 acres is my own.

11496. Are you acquainted with the condition of the farmers of a considerable district of Hampshire?—Yes, I value land occasionally, therefore I have an opportunity of knowing the situation of many of them in our own county.

11497. Comparing their condition at the present time with their condition in 1833, is it better or worse?—Decidedly worse.

11498. To what do you attribute that?—Low prices.

11499. The low price of all agricultural produce, or only wheat?—All agricultural produce; Hampshire is a stock county, and with the exception of stock, the produce is very low, ruinously low, I should say.

11500. Is the price of barley good?—Yes; but the growth of this year I consider below an average, and consequently it comes out a loss.

11501. Do you speak of the crop of 1835?—Yes.

Mr. *R. H. Stares.*

26 April 1836.

11502. Was the crop of 1833 and 1834 equally bad?—I think not; but in our particular district we were bad off.

11503. Supposing that you had raised a fair average crop on your land, should you have been dissatisfied?—No; that would have been equal to wheat at 60*s.* a quarter.

11504. Wheat has been very low?—Yes.

11505. Has it risen lately?—Yes, it has gone down from 4*s.* to 6*s.* a quarter the last week or two; it has risen considerably the last two months.

11506. What is the nature of the soil?—A light thin soil, subsoil chalk; but we have the five course system, wheat, turnips, barley, grass.

11507. Is it land you can plough with two horses?—Some do it, but I do not.

11508. That is land you can cultivate in as cheap a manner as any land?—The cheapest, I think.

11509. What is the produce of wheat per acre?—The average perhaps 20 bushels for a series of years; these last three or four years, I think it has averaged rather more.

11510. What has been the average produce of oats and barley per acre?—Perhaps from 24 to 32 bushels; it depends upon the cultivation.

11511. You do not grow oats?—Only as many as we require for our horses; we consider it a destructive crop.

11512. Have the expenses of cultivation been reduced within the last few years, as compared with former years?—No; wages rose during the riots from 10 to 15 per cent., but it is now reduced to what it was before that time.

11513. With reference to the period from 1820 to the present time, has there been a reduction in the price of labour?—No, we are giving about the same rate of wages; there is very little difference.

11514. Have any of your other expenses been decreased since 1820?—No, the poor rates have been increased, and tithes have been increased; I do not know that they have much increased since 1820.

11515. Has the poor rates increased?—Yes, till 1835.

11516. Is your parish within an union?—Yes.

11517. Have there been a reduction of poor rates since the union was established?—Yes, we have not the accounts made up by the auditor, so as to be able to speak correctly to that, but there is a decided difference in many parishes, not in ours. I do not see in our parish we shall have much difference; in reference to the population we were as low per head as any parish in the union. A parish within the union, where the population is 2,100, their expenditure averaged I think about 2,800*l.* the last three years, save 30*l.* per cent.; the population of Droxford is 1,640, and I believe the average expenditure, for three years, was about 1,450*l.* or 1,500*l.*, so that we were on an average under 1*l.* per head.

11518. You cannot expect to save the same proportion if you have managed better than they?—No.

11519. Have you any comparative calculation of the cost of cultivating your farm now, and when it was cultivated by your father?—Yes, I do not mean to say that I can show exactly how he paid his labourers all the year through, but I know the rate of wages, and can make my calculation on the quantity of labour required on his farm of 450 acres, from 1780 to 1790 the wages averaged at from 6*s.* to 7*s.* per week. Labour for one year about 290*l.*, and wheat averaged 48*s.* per quarter for 10 years. All the tradesmen, such as the blacksmiths, carpenters, wheelwrights, and so on, had 2*s.* a day, they have now 3*s.* 6*d.* per day. I have put them at 30*l.* a year; the tithes at that time were 25*l.* a year; for poor rates 18*l.* a year. In 1835, on the same farm of 450 acres, now in my own occupation, I have put one year's labour at 374*l.* a year, tradesmens' bills at 50*l.* a year, tithes 65*l.* a year, and poor rates 70*l.* a year, wheat averaging under 40*s.* per quarter. Will take in wheat to pay the tithe 260 bushels, when in 1790 it required only 84 bushels.

Cost of Cultivation from 1780 to 1790, when Wheat averaged 48 *s.* per quarter:

Labour	£. 290
Tradesmens' Bills	30
Tithes	25
Poor Rates	18
	£. 363

Cost of Cultivation for the year 1835, Wheat averaging at 40 *s.* per quarter:

Labour	£. 375
Tradesmen	50
Tithes	65
Poor Rates	70
	£. 560

11520. That is calculating wheat at 40*s.*?—Yes, taking the last year.

11521. The price of wheat for the last three years has not been so low as 40*s.*—No, it has not.

11522. Do you think that a fair price to take for the average?—We are told we cannot have wheat on an average of years more than 40*s.* per quarter; it is now 48*s.* I am showing that my expenditure upon my own farm is 220*l.* a year more than in my father's time, when wheat was 48*s.* per quarter.

11523. Have

11523. Have you made a comparison the last ten years with the ten years you have stated?—No.

11524. The *O'Conor Don.*] Have you reason to believe that the land produces more now than then?—It produces more now, but not with the same capital; I have employed a larger capital, and cultivated very highly.

11525. Mr. *Cayley.*] Has the price of wheat been lower than 40*s.*?—Yes, it has been as low as 36*s.*

11526. What was it the first six weeks in this year?—I have bought whea at 32*s.*; I am a miller as well as a farmer.

11527. In point of fact, from your experience, has not there been a gradual descending scale in wheat for the last twenty years?—Yes; now and then there has been a reaction, and prices have been higher for a time.

11528. But, generally speaking, there has been a descending scale ever since the war?—No; in 1817, 1818 and 1819 the prices were very high; in 1820 or 1821 it declined.

11529. If there has been a gradually descending scale, have you any reason to suppose that the present price is any thing but the bottom of the scale?—I have no reason to suppose otherwise.

11530. If there has been a gradually descending scale for all those years the fair presumption is, that if we have got to the bottom we may remain at the bottom?—I cannot say that it is so.

11531. Mr. *Miles.*] Have we not a reaction at the present moment?—Yes, we have.

11532. Is not the price of wheat higher than it was in October?—Yes.

11533. Mr. *Cayley.*] What do you consider the cause of the rise?—I believe the cause is, that the corn-merchants consider that the spring has been very unfavourable to the growing crop, and the speculators are in the market.

11534. If the growing crop should happen to fail, would that be advantageous to the farmers?—Not unless we get better prices.

11535-6. Mr. *Miles.*] Has the crop of wheat been more than an average crop this year throughout the kingdom?—I can only speak from my own county, I think it has in our county.

11537. May not that very probably occasion the lowness of price?—I am at a loss to give an answer what is the cause.

11538. If you have an excess of supply to the demand, will it not lower prices?—Most assuredly.

11539. Must not that be the case with more than an average crop of wheat?—We have an increased population, yet we are selling our produce at less than our forefathers did when the population was not half what it is now.

11540. Has not the cultivation increased more than half?—I think not in our county.

11541. *Chairman.*] Has it not in other counties?—I cannot speak to that.

11542. The *O'Conor Don.*] Do not you state that your own land produces considerably more?—Yes; but not a corresponding increase with the population.

11543. *Chairman.*] Have you any memorandum of the price of barley within the period of 1780 and 1790?—No, I have not.

11544. When was the turnip system of husbandry introduced into your part of Hampshire?—Before I can remember, but not to the extent it is now.

11545. Between 1780 and 1790 turnips were not much grown?—I believe not.

11546. Probably the same quantity of sheep were not kept on a farm?—Certainly not.

11547. There was not the same profit on wool as at present?—I think not.

11548. Mr. *Clive.*] There was not the same attention paid to the breeding of sheep there is now?—There was not the quantity bred; we breed a great many more.

11549. And have had a better breed?—Yes, a different breed altogether; in our part of the country it used to be the Hampshire horned sheep.

11550. They fatten quicker?—Yes.

11551. And there is a quicker return?—Yes.

11552. Mr. *Cayley.*] Notwithstanding all those advantages you have from your turnip crop, your keeping more sheep, and all those improvements in farming, you are worse off than you were before those improvements took place?—I think decidedly so.

Mr. *R. H. Stares.*

26 April 1836.

11553. If something else has not intervened to produce your distress, it may be fairly concluded that those improvements have done you harm?—The farm does not answer my purpose; at the present prices we are employing a capital double that employed between 1780 and 1790.

11554. At what did you sell your wool last year?—Thirty-nine shillings per tod.

11555–6. Is not that a remunerating price?—Most assuredly.

11557. Have you lost any sheep by the rot?—Never.

11558. Sheep flocks have turned out well?—Yes; but this season 500*l.* does not pay me for the loss of my crop of turnips; I have been purchasing hay.

11559. *Chairman.*] That is an accidental circumstance in consequence of the loss of your turnips?—Yes.

11560. Do you recollect so bad a season for turnips before?—Never.

11561. Have sheep been kept at a moderate expense?—The cost of cultivating for sheep was very great.

11562. Mr. *Miles.*] You have used above 300*l.* worth of hay in consequence of the deficiency of crops?—Yes.

11563. *Chairman.*] For the three years preceding 1835, did your sheep pay you or not?—Yes, if it was not for the sheep we could not go on at all in the light soils.

11564. Your crops of barley were indifferent in those years, and your barley crop was at a fair price in consequence of being an indifferent crop?—Yes.

11565. If you had had the average quantity of barley you usually grow, would the late prices have been satisfactory?—Yes, 30*s.* to 34*s.* a quarter would have been remunerating.

11566. What would be a remunerating price of wheat?—I think not less than 60*s.* to 64*s.* for a man to make interest of his money.

11567. Do you use bone dust?—Yes.

11568. Mr. *Sanford.*] Can you suggest any means by which the price of 64*s.* could be obtained?—I cannot undertake to do that.

11569. *Chairman.*] Do you think it would be safe to return to a depreciated currency?—I do not know.

11570. You are in favour of it?—I should rather see the present system go on if we can get remunerating prices; but farmers cannot go on at the present prices.

11571. Mr. *Miles.*] Would not other prices rise in proportion to the price of wheat if we returned to a paper currency?—Very few articles that a farmer requires have fallen in proportion to wheat.

11572. Mr. *Miles.*] If you return to paper currency do you not conceive that if the farmer is to be benefited by the return the manufacturer will be also?—I do not know as to the manufacturer.

11573. Would not the same currency be applicable to both?—Yes.

11574. If the farmer is benefited by a rise in price will not the manufacturer?—I think he would, as it would cause a greater demand in the home market.

11575. That it would raise prices generally?—I do not know why it should not if it rose the price of wheat.

11576. If you had to pay more for every thing would that be a benefit?—Yes, I think it would.

11577. In what way?—Supposing that wheat gets up from 40*s.* a quarter to 64*s.*, and a farmer growing 200 quarters of wheat, the additional expense he is put to in labour, &c. for cultivating would not be equal to the advance he would receive for his corn.

11578. You conclude that the price of labour would remain about the same?—No, that it would rise, but not in a corresponding degree.

11579. Mr. *Sanford.*] Would he have to pay higher rent?—The rents are now higher than they should be in proportion to the price, but it is labour that forms the chief part of the cost; I know several farms in our neighbourhood where the rents are gone down very nearly to what they were in 1792.

11580. Mr. *Miles.*] What were they in the time of high prices?—There is a farm in my neighbourhood let in 1798 at 245*l.* a year; in 1812, at 500*l.* a year; in 1824, it was let at 300*l.* a year; the lease is now expired, the tenant says, I will not stop any longer, I have been losing money ever since I have been in it, and I will not do it any longer, and he is now going off.

11581. Has

11581. Has that farm been offered at any price?—It is now let at the same money, 300*l.* a year.

11582. Supposing we had a paper currency do not you believe that there would be immediately 200*l.* a year added to the rent?—If the prices we formerly received could be again had it would be better worth it.

11583. Mr. *Cayley.*] In fact if the prices do not get up there will be no rent left?—No.

11584. If there is no rent left the land is not worth cultivating?—A farm cannot be kept in a good state of cultivation if the price of wheat is to remain during the term of 14 years at what it is now, I do not think it would be worth a person's while to cultivate it.

11585. If the land is not worth cultivating and scarcely makes a profit for cultivation, what will be the condition of the labourer?—It is painful to contemplate it.

11586. Are the present expenses of labour paid out of the profits?—No.

11587. If the wages of labour are paid out of capital do you think that those farming on a moderate capital can go on?—No.

11588. If the prices were remunerating and the labourer had regular employment do you think his condition would be one of comfort?—I should think so.

11589. You think that would be a great benefit which produced a state of prices which contributed to that state of things?—If we could go on so.

11590. Do you see any reason why you should not go on so?—I see no reason.

11591. If the manufacturer's prices rose, would he not be able to consume more articles of produce?—It must act beneficially to all, as it appears to me.

11592 Do you think that the retail prices have fallen in the market towns in blacksmiths' bills and carpenters' bills, and so on, in proportion to the price of corn?—Certainly not; it takes nearly four bushels of wheat to pay a carpenter for a week's wages, it used to take only two bushels.

11593. Do you think the retail prices of the tradesmen in other lines have fallen in proportion to the wholesale prices?—No, I do not.

11594. If there was to be a rise in wholesale prices, would there be the same rise in retail prices?—Yes, I suppose there would.

11595. You have stated that the retail prices have not fallen in proportion in your market towns?—No, they have not.

11596. Can you state whether the parties who sell at those immoderately high prices are making great fortunes?—I think they are not doing very well.

11597. Do you think the blacksmiths are doing very well, for instance?—No, the tradesmen working for the farmers say, "We used to complain when wheat was high, and now we wish it was high again, because we were doing better, having so much more to do."

11598. Their prices are not reduced?—No, they say we have to pay more for every article except bread; more poor rates, and various charges, and we cannot come down to the prices in 1792.

11599. If wholesale prices were to rise from an alteration of currency, the retail prices would not be very different?—I do not think they would rise in proportion; I do not think the poor rates would rise; but there would be more employment for the labourer, and better wages.

11600. Would your taxation be increased with the rise of prices?—I should think not.

11601. Would the national debt be increased with the rise of prices?—I should think not.

11602. If you had more money you would be better able to pay them?—Yes, I should think so.

11603. Do you remember the great fall of prices immediately succeeding the war?—Not immediately; in 1817 and 1818 wheat was dearer than it was for some few years before.

11604. Do you remember what it was in 1815 and 1816?—In 1815, 63*s.*; in 1816, 76*s.* per quarter.

11605. Were the farmers well off in 1817 and 1818?—Yes, very well off.

11606. When did they begin to be badly off after that?—About 1820, 1821 and 1822 the prices began to decline, the farmers began to cry out.

11607. Had they good crops at that time?—Yes, in 1822 there was a good crop of wheat, I think.

Mr. R. H. Stares.

26 April 1836.

11608. Were there generally very good crops in those years?—I believe there were.

11609. Did all produce fall?—Yes, all produce fell.

11610. A good season for wheat would not produce the same prices for all other commodities?—No, I think not.

11611. Do you remember when prices rose again?—Yes, in 1824 and 1825.

11612. To what was that rise owing, in your opinion?—I do not know; I think our crop of wheat was not quite so good as in 1822.

11613. Do you know whether all prices had increased in 1824 and 1825?—Yes, I think so.

11614. A bad crop of wheat would not make all prices rise?—Not all; but it has an effect on other prices; barley and oats are somewhat influenced by the price of wheat.

11615. Was the price of meat affected?—Sheep were low, I think, in 1822.

11616. Will you refer to the then prices?—I have not the price of sheep.

11617. Do you remember whether all other agricultural produce was low in 1824 and 1825?—I cannot say.

11618. Do you remember whether the farmers were prosperous in 1824 and 1825?—Yes, they were much better off than they have been since.

11618*. Are manufacturing prices higher this year?—I cannot speak to their prices.

11619. Do you remember when all prices were high, manufacturing as well as agricultural produce, whether there was any complaint from the manufacturer or the labourer?—No, none at all.

11619.* They were all much more comfortable?—Much more comfortable than they have been since.

11620. Mr. *Miles.*] Was not that during the time of war?—No.

11620.* What time do you allude to?—1824, 1825 and 1826.

11621. Do you recollect the prices in 1825?—I cannot recollect 1825 particularly, but I recollect after 1822 prices went up.

11621.* Do you recollect any thing particular which occurred in the close of 1825 and the commencement of 1826?—Yes.

11622. Do you recollect any bankruptcies then?—Yes.

11623. Do you recollect any kind of paralysis?—Yes.

11624. To what do you attribute that having had high prices the year before?—I cannot answer that question; I do not know the cause.

11625. Mr. *Cayley.*] Had we a drepreciated standard then, or the present standard of 3*l.* 17*s.* 10½*d.* the ounce?—Yes.

11626. Do you think a large quantity of paper could be safely based on the 3*l.* 17*s.* 10½*d.* an ounce?—I cannot answer that question; I do not profess to understand that.

11627. All you can say is, that when we had more paper and higher prices, all classes were more comfortable?—Yes.

11628. Mr. *Clive.*] And so long as you have more paper again it will be more comfortable?—We want higher prices or a reduction in our expenditure.

11629. Mr. *Sanford.*] Have you any joint stock banks in your district?—Yes.

11630. Have they made large issues of late?—I have no means of ascertaining.

11631. Are there any immediately in your neighbourhood?—One in about 10 miles.

11632. Do you find a complaint among your agricultural friends that they cannot get accommodation when they require it?—I have not heard them say; I know that when one pound notes were in circulation they could get it much better than they can now.

11633. You think the farmers cannot get the accommodation which they used to have?—They cannot.

11634. The *Chairman.*] You were speaking of using bone dust for manure, do you think that is the custom generally with the farmers in your neighbourhood?—Not half of them I should think, only the men who have a large capital employed.

11635. Do you think farmers of large capital have been in the habit of employing artificial manure of late years?—Yes.

11636. You think, in respect of cultivation, land has improved rather than otherwise

otherwise in consequence of that?—Where a man had good capital I think it has improved.

11637. Where a man had little or no capital, what is the consequence?—the farms have become deteriorated and the farmer ruined.

11638. It is impossible for a man without some other trade to go on?—It is.

11639. Has there been much improvement in draining in your country?—We have very little land of that description to require draining.

11640. The only improvement made is the use of artificial manure?—And a different system of crops, by the introduction of green crops.

11641. The system of changing the crop?—Yes.

11642. Can you say that the labourer is better or worse off than he was 10 years ago?—I think they have been better off till the New Poor Law came into operation, than they were a few years ago; but they are now entirely thrown upon their own resources, and I am sorry to say employment is not sufficient to give them remunerating prices; they are obliged to work for low wages, and the farmer cannot afford to pay higher wages, from the low price of his farm produce.

11643. Are there many persons out of employment?—Not many in my parish.

11644. Have many got employment in other parishes?—Very few.

11645. Have any been removed?—Very few.

11646. You were speaking of the rents of cottages; have they fallen in proportion to every thing else?—No.

11647. They are too high?—Much too high; the rents are very material to poor men, they are doubled, and in some instances trebled.

11648. You keep accurate farm accounts?—Pretty well.

11649. Can you furnish the Committee with a statement of the cost of cultivating your farm upon the five course system, during 15 years, and the amount you have made from the produce of the farm?—I am not prepared now to do it.

11650. You can do it and send it to the Committee?—I think I can do it pretty correctly; I do not keep a very correct account.

11651. A dry season does not suit your soil so well as a wet one?—No.

11652. Are you aware of any lands that have run out of lease in your neighbourhood of late?—There is one just run out in my neighbourhood.

11653. Is there any difficulty in procuring a tenant in case a farm comes out of lease?—No; no difficulty at all, I am sorry to say.

11654. Is that at a diminished rent, or the same rent?—At a somewhat diminished rent.

11655. Are they men of capital?—Some are, and some, I think, are not; it is difficult to speak to that; I have reason to think some are not men of the capital they ought to be; I think that farmers take a farm which they ought to stock with 3,000*l.*, who have not 2,000*l.*

11656. There is no land gone fairly out of cultivation?—A great many farmers are turning their attention to sheep and grass in preference to corn.

11657. Have you in your neighbourhood down land?—Yes; I have no downs of my own.

11658. Was there much of that down land ploughed up during the war?—Yes, a good deal.

11659. Would not it have been better if that land had never been broken up?—I think the occupiers at the time made money by it; at the present price of things, I think it would be better for the present occupiers if it was now in down.

11660. That species of land has been cultivated to grow white crops?—White and green crops.

11661. If persons attempt to grow wheat on that land, it is not extraordinary that they should lose by it?—It will grow wheat if cultivated on the five course system.

11662. You believe the farmers of down land near to you could do more by cultivating it in severalty than with others?—Yes.

11663. Would you apply bone dust to that?—Yes.

11664. You were deputed from the great body of farmers in Hampshire to attend the Agricultural Association in London, were not you?—No.

Mr. *R. H. Stares.*

26 April 1836.

11665. Can you suggest any remedy which it is in the power of the Legislature to afford the farmers?—If you alter the currency prices would rise, but I do not understand the question sufficiently. I know very well years ago when it was 1*l.* notes instead of sovereigns, it was very easy for all the small farmers to go to the bankers and get 20*l.*, 30*l.* or 40*l.*, lent them, when they cannot get it now in sovereigns.

11666. Is there any difficulty in a farmer of known capital getting money now?—I apprehend not, if he has good security to offer.

11667. You cannot get it on personal security unless a man of known character?—I should think not.

11668. Will you answer the question separate and distinct from the currency, can you suggest any other remedy or mode of relief the Legislature can apply to the farmers?—Yes, if you can reduce tithes, poor rates, labour (and the total repeal of the malt tax) to what it was from 1780 to 1790, when wheat averaged at 48*s.*; I should prefer that to any alteration of the currency. Although the produce is greater upon a well cultivated farm than it was 40 years ago, the capital employed is also greater, and the quantity of labour as compared with 1790 is 20 per cent. more. When I look round and find by my own accounts that the labour, the tithes, the poors' rates, and various other charges are so great with the price of wheat at 40*s.* a quarter, and barley at 34*s.*; we see that we have now greater burthens in proportion to those we had in 1792.

11669. If rents were reduced to the rents of 1792, should you be in the same situation?—No, I am paying now near three times the amount of tithe and poor rates, &c., that was paid by my father.

11670-1. Supposing every thing reduced, there is no other remedy you can suggest but the alteration of the currency?—Or the reduction of expenditure.

11672. Mr. *Sanford.*] Would a reduction of any Government tax relieve you?—I am not aware of any reduction that the Government can make, except the malt tax; I believe the farmers pay no window tax, and I think they have a riding horse free.

11673-4. *Chairman.*] Suppose the malt tax be repealed with a property tax substituted, should you prefer that?—I think a tenant farmer would be better off. I do not think I should as an owner and occupier, but I would rather have the malt tax off and a tax on property put on.

11675. Suppose the duty on foreign barley was repealed at the same time that the malt tax was repealed, do you think that the farmer would gain much by the reduction?—Why should the duty be taken off barley any more than from wheat; I would rather have no malt duty, and abolish the tax on barley than have it as it is now.

11676. Mr. *Cayley.*] Do you remember when the malt tax was higher?—Yes, I paid 35*s.* a quarter duty on malt myself.

11677. The farmers were prosperous at that time?—Yes.

11678. Do you think the malt duty is the cause of the distress?—No; but if it was taken off, I think there would be an increased demand for barley.

11679. You say that you are a land owner; did you inherit from your father?—Part, and part I bought since.

11680. Did you buy that from your savings since 1820?—No.

11681. Have you made any money since 1820?—No, I am very little better than I was at that time.

11682. If you had begun the world in 1820, with a very small capital, say 500*l.*, do you think it would have been much increased by this time?—No, I do not.

11683. Do you think the tenants of your neigbourhood possess as much capital as they did in 1820?—No.

11684. They have been losing capital, rather than gaining it?—Yes.

11685. Did you say you succeeded your father, and your father succeeded your grandfather?—No, the farm I have been speaking of I purchased; my father occupied it from 1780 to 1822.

11686. In fact, your family have been on the farm for nearly half a century?—From 1780 up to this time.

11687. When did you purchase?—In 1822.

11688. Was it usual in your neighbourhood for the son to succeed the father for generations on the same farm as tenants?—In some instances, but not in many.

11689. Do you know any instances where the tenants have been ruined on farms which their forefathers held for generations before them?—No, not that have been occupied by the same family; I know many that have been ruined, or nearly so; one man, who took a farm in 1830 at 270*l.* a year, is obliged to give up, although the rent is reduced 30 per cent since the war.

11690. What has become of the tenant?—He has gone, he cannot go on.

11691. Notwithstanding the great reduction of rental?—No.

11692. Was he a man of prudence?—Yes, his frugality was extraordinary; he declared to me that he had never spent a shilling unnecessarily while he has been on the farm, five years.

11693. Has there been a great change of tenantry in your neighbourhood the last 20 years?—Yes, there has, in various places.

11694. Yours is a sheep district?—Yes.

11695. It is an upland farm?—Yes, we grow a great many turnips.

11696. Your land does not produce rot?—No.

11697. Do you know of any farms in your neighbourhood that will give the rot?—No, not in that district.

11698. Have you heard of the rot prevailing in other districts?—Yes, to a very great extent.

11699. That would make the sheep on your upland soil very valuable?—Yes.

11700. The tendency of a high price would be to stimulate you to increase your flocks?—Yes.

11701. From that you argue that there is a decrease in flocks?—Yes.

11702. There is a high price of meat at this time?—Yes.

11703. Do you attribute that to the scarcity of sheep?—No, not altogether.

11704. Do you hear of a great many sheep coming to market?—Yes.

11705. In consequence of the high prices?—And the deficiency of food.

11706. Then there will be a probability of a deficiency of sheep next year?—I anticipate that there will be.

11707. Will one security satisfy the banker now, if the farmer goes to the banker?—I cannot speak to that; small farmers used to get 20*l.*, 30*l.* or 40*l.* in 1*l.* notes, but the bankers will not let him have it in sovereigns.

11708. You are an advocate for 1*l.* notes?—Yes, if it can be done safely, and no other relief can be given.

11709. You think that a banker is ready to lend to those engaged in a successful trade?—Yes.

11710. When farming was successful he was ready to lend him?—Yes.

11711. Do you know why he will not trust him now?—Because the loan must now be in cash instead of notes, and a greater risk to the banker, by reason of their poverty.

11712. If they require other securities, will there not be a difficulty in a farmer getting security, if his brother farmer is equally distressed?—Yes, there is no doubt of that.

11713. What do the tradesmen of the district say; do they all complain?—Yes, they all say we used to think that the price of wheat was too high; we only wish now that the price of wheat was higher.

11714. Do they complain of farmers not paying their bills?—Yes, I am sorry to say very much indeed.

11715. That the farmers pay their rents instead of their bills?—Yes.

11716. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] You have been speaking of the great advantages which you think would be derived from the remission of the malt duty; do you think it would be useful also in respect of the wheat-grower of the kingdom, and that there would be a probability of the price of wheat being better?—I should think it would; for more barley would be cultivated, and we should have less of wheat; I have no doubt that the price of barley would be increased if the malt duty were taken off.

11717. Mr. *Miles.*] Would there be any difficulty in increasing the growth of barley if the price should rise?—No, for they would then turn their attention more to barley instead of wheat.

11718. *Chairman.*] You speculate on a rise in the price of barley, if the malt tax were taken off?—Yes.

11719. Do you remember when the beer duty was taken off?—I do not recollect the year; I know it was taken off.

Mr. *R. H. Stares.*

26 April 1836.

11720. Do you recollect what was the duty per quarter on malt supposed to be taken off by that measure?—No.

11721. It was supposed to be 27*s.* a quarter; what has been the effect of the reduction of the beer duty; has it created that great demand for barley you would expect?—No, but I think it would have been better if it had been taken off the malt and left on the beer.

11722. Mr. *Miles.*] You conceive there is no doubt that the barley grown would always equal the demand in this country?—I think it would.

11723. Mr. *Evans.*] You as a landowner have stated that a depreciation of currency would be of use to raise prices?—I think that will raise prices.

11724. What is the feeling of the country at large on that point?—The opinions are conflicting.

11725. Do you think the manufacturers are calling out for a depreciation of currency?—I have no means of knowing.

11726. Are the annuitants on public credit?—I think not.

11727. It applies chiefly to agriculturists?—I think it would increase their prices.

11728. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] If the effect of an alteration of currency should be that the price of wheat should be raised to 7*s.* or 7*s.* 6*d.*, and other grain in proportion, do you think a rise to that extent would be prejudicial to any manufacturing district of the kingdom?—I do not think so.

11729. Mr. *Dunlop.*] When you say that the farmer would be benefited by taking off the malt tax, do you mean, supposing another tax should be put on to an equal amount?—No, I do not; I have not looked on it in that light, only that supposing the malt tax taken off, I think that will be beneficial to the farmer.

11730. Would not that apply to any tax?—Yes, any tax which bears upon his produce; if he is taxed with any thing and can get rid of that, he is so much benefited.

11731. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] Is there any tax so annoying as the malt tax, either in ratio of tax or the amount levied under it?—I am not aware of anything equal to it; it would be a great stimulus to a labouring man to have the means of brewing, and I have no doubt he would soon find the means to brew if he could get the malt free of duty.

11732. Have you made any calculation what difference per acre it would make if the malt tax were taken off?—I have put it in this way, supposing a farm to produce 200 quarters a year, the first saving would be 12*l.* or 14*l.* a year upon the quantity the farmer brewed; then I calculate putting on 4*s.* on the barley he sold, making together from 40*l.* to 50*l.* a-year difference upon a farm growing 200 quarters of barley.

11733. Do you think that would increase the cultivation of malt?—I think it will be increased.

11734. Mr. *Miles.*] You average the growth of wheat at about 20 bushels an acre?—Yes.

11735. Suppose you did not apply so large a quantity of bone dust you could not obtain that produce?—I consider 20 bushels an acre the average growth without bones.

11736. What expense per acre do you go to for bone dust?—About 50*s.* per acre.

11737. Your general account for the last three years, taking every thing into calculation is, that you have got by your flock, but that you have lost by the wheat, has your profit by your flock made up for the loss?—No, notwithstanding the flock has paid, the price of wheat being so low does not make up the difference, it is not a remuneration.

11738. Is it a gain or a loss, looking at the last three years?—A loss on each year.

11739. Sir *James Graham.*] Where did you sell your wheat last?—I am a miller as well as a farmer.

11740. When did you buy any last?—Last week.

11741. White or red?—Red; we have no white growing in our neighbourhood.

11742. What did you give for red wheat last week?—Forty-nine shillings.

11743. What did you give two months ago for the same quality of wheat?—I should think about 45*s.*

11744. Has it not risen nearly 25 per cent. within the last few months?—Yes.

11745. Is it not rising now?—No; it is going back now within the last fortnight; it was worth more by 4*s.* a quarter a fortnight ago than it is now.

11746. Mr. *Miles.*] Upon the 700 acres you rent, what rent do you pay?—I rent at three different rents, varying from 7*s.* to 14*s.* and 15*s.*

11747. Is not part of that which belongs to yourself of a better description of land?—I do not think it is much better, but being in my occupation and my father's for so many years, it is in a better state of cultivation.

11748. What do you charge for rent upon those 500 acres?—Fifteen shillings per acre.

11749. Sir *James Graham.*] Do you keep regular accounts?—Not perhaps so regular as many men.

11750. Do you take stock every year?—No; it is the most difficult thing for a farmer to do.

11751. You do not value your working horses or your live stock?—No.

11752. It is all matter of conjecture whether it has increased or not?—Yes.

11753. Mr. *Cayley.*] Is it all matter of conjecture at the end of four or five years whether you have become richer or poorer?—No; I am not richer than I was four years ago.

11754. Sir *James Graham.*] You being a miller and a farmer, you may lose on your mill what you gain on your corn?—No; I have a clerk at the mill, and keep a very regular account there.

11755. Mr. *Miles.*] What do you consider a fair profit upon a farm?—I think a man ought not to have less than 15 per cent. for his capital employed.

11756. Are you aware what manufacturers are content with?—No.

11757. Sir *James Graham.*] What number of rents do you make?—About three last year.

11758. One of the farms you hold you have taken lately?—Yes.

11759. Do you hold under a lease or at will?—Under a lease.

11760. When granted?—About ten years ago.

11761. Are you paying the rent you stipulated to pay ten years ago?—Yes.

11762. And have had no reduction of it?—No.

11763. Is the land of very bad quality?—Yes, very light thin soil.

11764-5. What is the other farm?—Not quite 200 acres; the lease of that was taken in 1822.

11766-7. For how many years?—Fourteen years; I had a fresh lease the year before last.

11768. Did you renew at the old rent?—Just the same.

11769. Were not prices lower two years ago than when you entered upon that farm in 1822?—No; much the same.

11770. Do you lose on that farm now?—The whole is farmed together; it is impossible for me to keep a separate account.

11771. Have you no book of account?—No account that I can swear to.

11772. You have other occupations besides farming?—I am a miller.

11773. *Chairman.*] The account you have been requested to send to the Committee is not founded upon your farming account books?—No, not entirely.

11774. It would be matter of calculation?—Yes, in some measure.

11775. Mr. *Clay.*] Would you like to get out of that lease?—Yes; if I knew that prices were to remain as they are, I would not be a farmer any longer.

11776. Is your farm in a situation that it could be let?—Yes, it is in a high state of cultivation.

11777. At the same rent you now pay?—Yes, because the land is in a high state of cultivation.

11778. Sir *James Graham.*] If you were drawing to the termination of your lease you would be able to manage that by cropping accordingly?—Yes.

11779. Mr. *Heathcote.*] Have you any agreement as to the rotation of crops?—I am not particularly bound as to the rotation, except that I shall not take more than two white crops following.

11780. Is it usual in your part of the country to allow persons to take land without any condition in that respect?—No.

11781. How much clover seed do you sow to an acre?—Twelve pounds.

11782. Would you like to have your clover seed cheaper?—It would make very little difference.

Mr. *R. H. Stares.*

26 April 1836.

11783. Do you grow clover for seed in Hampshire much?—Very little; it is not a clover county.

11784. Would you like the duty on clover seed to be reduced?—It would be injurious in counties where it is grown to a great extent.

11785. Mr. *Sanford.*] Do you prefer the foreign clover seed to the English?—No, I do not; some farmers do.

11786. As an annual purchaser, do you generally select that grown in England?—Yes, generally.

11787. Mr. *Miles.*] Do you not find it useful to change your seed?—Yes.

11788. All your land is not of the same description?—No, not quite all.

11789. Mr. *Heathcote.*] Have you any tithes paid in kind in your part of the country?—Yes.

11790-1. Have you seen the bill for the commutation of tithes?—Yes.

11792. What do you think of it?—I do not like it at all as the bill now stands; I will never commute my tithes on that principle if I can help it.

11793. Do you speak for yourself or do you speak for others?—I speak for myself.

11794. Sir *James Graham.*] It would not be pleasant to pay on the average the last seven years, when you have been using 20 bushels of bone dust?—No, it would not.

11795. Mr. *Heathcote.*] What is your opinion as to compulsory or voluntary commutation?—I would rather have it voluntary, for I would never commute my tithes on the average of the last seven years' payment.

11796. Do you think the voluntary system would be preferable to the compulsory?—It depends upon the system laid down.

11797. Mr. *Sanford.*] Are there any other provisions to which you object beside that of the seven years' average?—I do not know that I can call to my mind particularly to any thing.

11798. Supposing it were an average for the last four years?—I should not like to commute my tithes on an average of even the last three years.

11799. It would be advantageous to have a fixed payment not depending on cultivation?—Yes, not depending on the average of produce.

11800. Were your tithes taken in kind?—No; but the tithes have been increased since 1790 four hundred per cent. I now pay 250 per cent. more than my father did, and wheat was dearer.

11801. What system would you recommend for the commutation of tithe which should give you protection for your industry?—I should rather it was taken in proportion to the annual value of the land, because under the present system the farmer is subject to 10 per cent. to the tithe owner for every 100*l.* he lays out, and if the produce should be only 110*l.* the tithe owner gets 10*l.* and I lose the interest of my money.

11802. Under the existing system you are liable to have your tithes taken in kind?—Yes.

11803. It would be better for you to have a fixed payment?—I had rather take my chance than have the compulsory system.

11804. Mr. *Miles.*] On what valuation would you propose to fix the tithe?—Suppose the value of the land was 10*s.* an acre, give the clergyman a sixth or a seventh; but the proportion must depend on the description of land, and if arable or grass.

11805. If your own system was pursued the land must be valued?—Of course.

11806. Should you be content to be governed by that valuation?—Yes.

11807. Sir *James Graham.*] Can you conceive of any equitable plan of compulsory commutation of tithe, which does not proceed on an actual valuation of each parish of the whole land within it, with reference to the productive property of the whole soil within it?—No, I cannot conceive of any plan more equitable; I should be willing to concur in that.

11808. That you conceive must be the basis of any compulsory process?—Yes.

11809. *Chairman.*] Do you think there would be any difficulty in arriving at that?—No, I should think not.

11810. You think that any valuer would be able to ascertain the productive power?—Yes.

Mr. R. H. Stares.

26 April 1836.

11811. Sir *James Graham.*] Is not that the principle on which the surveyor now values for rent?—Yes.

11812. The surveyor has reference to the power of the land under ordinary cultivation?—Yes.

11813. Would not a surveyor valuing for tithes take the same course without reference to the forced cultivation?—I should conceive that he ought.

11814. Mr. *Sanford.*] He must take into consideration the capital employed in permanent improvement?—Yes, in permanent improvements.

11815. Suppose that has been in the shape of drainage?—Yes; if it is permanent.

11816. Sir *James Graham.*] Take the 20 bushels of bone per acre, that is not a permanent improvement?—Most assuredly not, that is gone in a year or two.

11817. In valuing for rent or for tithe your forced cultivation should not be taken into the account?—No, certainly not; I consider permanent improvements should be taken into cultivation, but not those which are temporary.

11818. No farmer probably would pursue that course of cultivation unless he has a bargain with the clergyman for a series of years?—No, it would stop me immediately if my tithes were taken in kind, and that would throw many men out of employment.

11819. There are no persons in your neighbourhood probably who do use the forced course of cultivation unless they have a bargain with the clergyman for a course of time?—No, I should think not.

Mercurii, 27° die Aprilis, 1836.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Shaw Lefevre.	Mr. Cayley.
Mr. Loch.	Mr. Denison.
Mr. Dunlop.	The Marquis of Chandos.
Mr. Evans.	Earl of Lincoln.
Mr. W. Gordon.	Mr. Baring.
Mr. William Miles.	Mr. Handley.
The O'Conor Don.	Mr. Wodehouse.

MR. SHAW LEFEVRE, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *William Bell*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *William Bell.*

27 April 1836.

11820. *Chairman.*] WHERE do you reside?—In the county of Berwick.

11821. Do you occupy any considerable portion of land in Berwickshire?—A farm of 550 acres.

11822. Have you any other employment?—I am employed in the valuation of land for letting and for sale; and I have the direction of letting, and collection of rents of some property.

11823. When you speak of acres, do you mean imperial or Scotch?—Imperial acres; and I have the direction of a farm in East Lothian, for my son, who is a writer to the signet in Edinburgh.

11824. Then you can speak generally to the state of agriculture in Berwickshire, as well as to your own particular farm?—I can speak particularly as to Berwickshire, and generally as to East Lothian.

11825. Is your farm upon lease?—Upon a lease of 19 years endurance.

11826. A money rent or a corn rent?—A money rent.

11827. Are the leases in general in Berwickshire on a money rent?—Generally upon a money rent; there are some exceptions, but very few.

11828. Are the leases in Berwickshire generally given for the same period as yours?—Nineteen or twenty-one years is the general endurance.

11829.—How many arable acres does your farm contain?—Five hundred and fifty arable acres.

11830. How many acres of pasture?—I suppose you mean permanent pasture; we have very little permanent pasture in Scotland.

Mr. *William Bell.*

27 April 1836.

11831. Yours is all convertible land?—Yes; there is a small patch of meadow, but it is not valuable.

11832. When did you take your farm?—Sixteen years expires at Whitsunday next.

11833. What is your rent?—The rent is 762*l.* for the 550 acres.

11834. What are the public burthens upon your farm?—They are very small; they would amount to about 25*l.* a year.

11835. Does this include poor rate?—Every public burthen.

11836. What is the amount of poor rate?—About nine guineas a year.

11837. Is that paid by you or by the landlord?—That sum is paid by me as the tenant's proportion; an equal sum is paid by the landlord as the proprietor's proportion.

11838. Are you bound to any system of management upon your farm by your lease?—Yes; I consider that the practice of binding tenants to a judicious system of management, has been very beneficial to the agriculture of Scotland, both to the landlord and tenant.

11839. What are the stipulations in your lease as to management?—The stipulations are generally, to cultivate according to the rules of good husbandry during the currency of the lease, and I am taken bound to leave at its expiring one-half of the farm in grass or pasture, one-fifth of the tillage land for a fallow break, and the remainder in crop, which is reaped by the out-going tenant.

11840. What is your course of cropping?—My general course of cropping is a five shift husbandry; that is, two-fifths of the farm in grass or pasture, two-fifths in corn crop, and one-fifth bare fallow and turnips.

11841. Do you consider that the best system of husbandry that can be followed both for the tenant and the landlord?—I consider it, generally speaking, the best system. I may mention, however, that for the last three or four years, I have followed the six shift system; that is, one-half the farm in grass, one-sixth in bare fallow and turnips, and two-sixths in corn crops. Stock and wool have paid so much better than corn for some years past, that I have considered it advisable to retain a larger portion of the farm in grass.

11842. Is that paper an account of the expenditure upon your farm?—No; this is the expenditure of the farm adjoining mine, and upon comparing it, I find the result to be very nearly the same as my own.

11843. What is the extent of that farm?—Four hundred and twenty acres.

11844. Is that managed precisely upon the same system as your own?—It is.

11845. What is the expenditure upon that farm?—The whole general annual expenditure is 1,047*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.*, exclusive of outlay for lime and other improvements as mentioned in the state.

11846. Has that farm any permanent grass upon it?—None whatever; I consider it one of the best cultivated farms in the county. Perhaps there is no better in Scotland.

Have the goodness to deliver in that account.

[*The same was delivered in, and read as follows:*]

AVERAGE ANNUAL EXPENSES on a Farm in *Berwickshire*, measuring 420 Imperial Acres, of which about Two-thirds is adapted for Turnip Husbandry, and about One-third Wheat Land; all in Tillage, and the Rent £.920.

The following Statement contains only the ordinary Expenses of farming, and does not include the outlay on Drains, Lime, and Bone Manure, which has been applied to a considerable extent for some years past.

The management is according to the five course rotation of crops, as follows, viz.:

	Acres.
In bare fallow and turnips - -	84
In wheat and barley - - -	84
In first year's grass - - -	84
In second year's grass - -	84
In oats - - - - -	84
	420

The

129

Mr. William Bell.

27 April 1836.

The situation of the farm is about twelve miles from Berwick, the principal market town, and about the same distance from coal and lime works. It has the advantage of a thrashing mill, with a supply of water gathered from drains on the farm, to thrash about 120 acres of the crop; and a horse power for six horses is used for thrashing out the remainder.

The above mode of management requires eleven work horses and one riding horse throughout the year; and the following number of servants engaged for the year, viz.: a bailiff, one shepherd, five ploughmen, having charge of two horses each, one boy or young man for the single horse, and to have charge of the riding horse; and one man to attend cattle in the straw-yards in winter, and to assist generally with farm work in summer.

The servants abovementioned are paid according to the custom of the country, principally with farm produce, which is valued in this statement by the prices of the two last crops.

ABSTRACT OF ONE YEAR'S EXPENSES:

	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Public Burdens.		
Assessed Taxes: house duty, 3*l.* 9*s.*; riding horse, 1*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.*; house dog, 8*s.*; and stamp receipt, 3*d.*	5 6 –	
Poor's Rates: for one year, tenant's half average of last two years	11 13 –	
School Salary: victual and money; tenant's half for one year	1 19 3	
Road Money: for repairs of roads not turnpike, being share of annual assessment for upholding the other roads in the district	4 10 –	
Sum		23 8 3
Wages to Yearly Servants:		
One bailiff	30 – –	
One shepherd	28 – –	
Five ploughmen, at 23*l.* 10*s.* each	117 10 –	
One boy, at 5*s.* per week	13 – –	
One man, to attend cattle, &c.	23 10 –	
The above men are hired by the year, and are paid partly in grain, have a cow kept, and other allowances, the value of which, by the rates of the two last years, is nearly as above stated.		
Sum		212 – –
Wages to Labourers and Harvest Expenses:		
People employed at various work, such as thrashing and dressing corn for market, making hay, hoeing turnips and other farm work done by women and boys at 10*d.* per day, average annual payment	70 – –	
Mowing hay and men's wages, preparing manures, thrashing at water furrows, mole-catcher's wages, &c. &c., averaging nearly	37 – –	
Harvest expenses on 168 acres, average for cutting down and putting it into sheaf, at 10*s.* 6*d.* per acre – 88*l.* 4*s.*		
Other expenses, assistants, carting corn and covering stacks, about – 8*l.* –		
	96 4 –	
Sum		203 4 –
Seed Corn and Grass Seeds, used Annually:		
Oats, 42 quarters, at 22*s.* per quarter	46 4 –	
Barley, 19 quarters, at 28*s.* per quarter	26 12 –	
Wheat 10 quarters, at 40*s.*	20 – –	
Clover and rye-grass seed for 84 acres:		
Clover seed 12 lb. per acre, at 9*d.* is 9*s.* – 37*l.* 16*s.*		
Rye-grass seed, 3*s.* 6*d.* per acre – 14*l.* 14*s.*		
	52 10 –	
Turnip seeds for 56 acres, at 3 lb. per acre, is 168 lb., at 9*d.*	6 6 –	
Sum		151 16 –
Repairs, Houses and Fences, and Insurance:		
Repairs, houses	10 10 –	
Repairs, fences, about	10 15 –	
Insurance on houses, and stock and crop	4 18 10	
Sum		26 3 10

Mr. *William Bell.*

27 April 1836.

VALUE OF FOOD FOR HORSES FOR ONE YEAR.		£. s. d.	£. s. d.
The Horses are kept in summer on cut-grass or pasture as may be convenient, and in winter on straw part of the time, and hay the remainder. They are throughout the year fed daily with oats the produce of the farm;			
For 40 weeks, at about 2½ bushels each per week, is	100 bushels.		
For 12 weeks at 2 bushels each per week	24		
Being 15½ quarters each, or	124		
So that each of the eleven horses consumes 15½ quarters of oats annually, or in all	170½ quarters.		
A riding-horse is also kept on nearly the same allowance, except as to the oats, which may be about	10		
	180½		
Grass in summer and hay in winter for twelve horses, 10*l.* each		120 – –	
Oats, 180½ quarters, at 20*s.* per quarter		180 10 –	
Sum			300 10 –
UPHOLDING STOCK OF HORSES AND IMPLEMENTS OF HUSBANDRY.			
Keeping up stock of horses, per annum		35 – –	
Keeping up implements of husbandry of all sorts, also shoeing horses, &c. one year		68 – –	
Sum			103 – –
INCIDENTAL OUTLAY.			
Incidental small payments, such as turnpike tolls, or sending corn to market, farriery account, medicine, &c. &c. nearly		19 – –	
Market expenses, one year, say		8 – –	
Sum			27 – –
Amount			1,047 2 1

NOTE.—The above Statement does not include interest of capital employed in the farm, which would add a considerable sum to the above; neither does it include the outlay on improvements, which have been made for some years past. The following is the average annual outlay for three years, 1833, 1834, and 1835.

AVERAGE ANNUAL OUTLAY BY TENANT, INCLUDING CARRIAGES.	
For Lime, nearly	120 – –
Bone manure	19 5 –
On drains, 85*l.* (deduct, allowed by landlord 20*l.*)	65 – –
On buildings and other improvements by tenant, average	70 – –
Annual outlay on improvements by tenant last three years	274 5 –

11847. Mr. *Cayley.*] Is the money for the roads composition money?—It is all composition, that is, paid entirely by the tenant.

11848. Do you render any service upon the roads besides?—No.

11849. *Chairman.*] The whole amount of labour upon that farm of 420 acres is 415*l.* 4*s.*?—Yes.

11850. Mr. *Loch.*]. What sort of straw is it upon which the horses are kept?—Any sort of straw, oat straw generally: each of the 11 horses consumes 15½ quarters of oats annually.

11851. You calculate 11 horses to do the work of that farm?—Yes.

11852. Mr. *Denison.*] Into what sum per annum should the sum stated for the lime

lime and the buildings be divided?—I consider that the lime should be divided over the whole lease.

11853. How should you proportion the expense of those buildings per annum?—The common practice is for the landlord to put the buildings into a sufficiently good condition for the tenant at his entry, and the tenant keeps them in repair afterwards.

11854. Suppose the tenant adds buildings, in the middle of his lease, to a large amount, what is done by the landlord?—Unless the landlord allows it, it is done at the tenant's expense.

11855. Mr. *Cayley.*] Do you apprehend that you would have to lay out less than the sum mentioned in that account in each year?—In buildings, certainly. At the commencement of the lease the buildings are generally put into a sufficient state to afford proper accommodation during the lease.

11856. Would you expend less than 120*l.* a year in lime?—Yes.

11857. What would be the average outlay upon lime?—There is no general rule, some will lime more heavily than others. I think upon a farm of that extent it would require about 80*l.* a year.

11858. And the bone manure?—From 20*l.* to 30*l.* a year.

11859. There is only 19*l.* 5*s.* here?—That farm grows a great deal of straw, and it affords a great deal of dung for itself.

11860. Shall you lay out less in drains the next four or five years?—Certainly, it will require less afterwards.

11861. Mr. *Miles.*] When did the farmer enter upon the lease whose accounts you have now given in?—Three or four years ago.

11862. And the consequence is, that what is put as permanent outlay would not come into the same account again during the lease?—No.

11863. Mr. *Cayley.*] You estimate 80*l.* a year for lime, and reckon 20*l.* a year for bone manure?—Yes, upon that farm.

11864. Do you estimate anything annually for draining?—It will always require a little.

11865. How much?—I suppose 20*l.* a year will do it.

11866. What would be the capital laid out upon that farm for stock and buildings?—To stock it sufficiently would require 2,000*l.*

11867. What interest should the tenant have upon that?—He should have 10 per cent. to give him a proper return for his capital, and, of course, additional profit ought to be drawn beside that.

11868. Then that makes the whole of the outgoings?—Yes.

11869. What is the nature of the soil upon that farm?—It is chiefly clay soil, but from being well drained it grows turnips.

11870. What is the acreable produce of wheat?—I consider three quarters and a half an acre a full average in the county of Berwick.

11871. What is the average of barley?—About 33 or 34 bushels per acre.

11872. Have you any statement of the amount of corn grown upon that farm in any one year?—No, he declined to give that; this account does not show any result as to the profit.

11873. Are you acquainted with this farm?—Yes.

11874. Do you know whether that farm has been farmed to a profit or a loss within the last three years?—I believe it has been farmed to a profit, and to a very considerable profit the last year.

11875. Mr. *Loch.*] Do you consider that the desire on the part of the gentleman who holds that farm not to tell the produce, arises from his being afraid to show the profit he has been making?—It is not the practice to produce the profit of a farm, because if a farm is nearly out of lease it is showing to the public what is the value of the farm.

11876. But your confident belief is that there was a profit upon this farm?—Yes.

11877. Mr. *Miles.*] Has there been a profit upon the last three years?—Not so much as the last year.

11878. *Chairman.*] What is the rent paid for the 420 acres?—920*l.*

11879. Mr. *Denison.*] You spoke of the good drainage of the land; what is the mode of draining?—Parallel or furrow-draining is not yet introduced as a system into Berwickshire. The drains are generally laid across the situations where the water shows most. Stones are very scarce in Berwickshire, and tile draining is only lately come into fashion.

Mr. *William Bell.*

27 April 1836.

11880. Then although you call it a well drained farm, you would not call it a well drained farm in comparison with those farms that have been drained upon the new principles and in the best way?—Certainly not.

11881. The drains you speak of are rather for spring water than for taking the surface water off?—They are for both purposes; they are generally three to four feet drains.

11882. Marquis of *Chandos.*] What kind of clay is this?—It is not a hard, impervious clay; it is rather a soft clay, and grows very good oats and turnips.

11883. What kind of subsoil?—Part of the soil is pervious, and the water gets down very well.

11884. *Chairman.*] To return to your own farm; you say the soil there is clay?—My farm is a strong clay soil.

11885. Is that farm drained?—I have drained it partially, but not to the extent it ought to be.

11886. You have been farming for 16 years?—Yes.

11887. During that time have you been farming to a profit?—Certainly I have.

11888. You are acquainted with the general state of agriculture in the county of Berwick; what do you say is the condition of the farmer generally in Berwickshire?—The condition of the farmer in Berwickshire is in general in a most satisfactory state.

11889. You are aware that petitions have been presented to Parliament from Scotland, complaining of agricultural distress; have any of those come from Berwickshire?—I believe not.

11890. Do you know the part of the country from which those petitions emanate?—I believe some from Northumberland, but none from Berwickshire.

11891. What has been the state of the crops the last three years?—There have been three or four very abundant wheat crops in succession.

11892. Do you think the abundance of the crops has been sufficient to account for the lowness of the price?—No, I am not sure of that; I consider that the redundant produce of Ireland being brought into consumption has very much depressed the price.

11893. Can you state what the expenses upon your own farm have been?—They are almost the same as the account I have given in.

11894. Mr. *Denison.*] By a retentive clay soil, with a retentive subsoil, should you understand a cold clay?—There is a portion of it certainly which I would denominate cold clay, and a proportion of it is good clay.

11895. Mr. *Cayley.*] Is the generality of your farm good clay or bad clay?—A good portion of it is good, sound clay land.

11896. Mr. *Loch.*] Have you had a fair return for your capital?—Yes, I have; I am ready to admit that my farm has been yielding a reasonable and fair profit.

11897. Mr. *Dunlop.*] Do you consider that your stock is as good or better than it was when it came into your farm?—When I came into the farm there were only about five score of sheep upon the lands, and I am able to pasture this year upwards of 40 score of sheep.

11898. Mr. *Denison.*] Then your farm has improved under the management that you have bestowed upon it?—It is paying more rent, and yielding more profit.

11899. Mr. *Loch.*] In what year did you take the farm?—In 1820.

11900. Who had the farm before that?—It was a divided farm before.

11901. Did you pay more rent when you took it than was paid before?—I paid 262*l.* more than was paid before.

11902. And you have had no reduction during the currency of your lease?—I never got a farthing of reduction from a landlord in my life.

11903. And notwithstanding that you have farmed to a profit, and have had a fair remuneration for your capital?—Yes.

11904. Mr. *Miles.*] Out of the 500 acres how many of them are properly drained?—I do not consider that any of them are properly drained.

11905. Have your gains been very much more upon that which is properly drained than upon the other?—Upon that portion which was drained of course they have, because it would have been very much injured by the wet if it had not; but I have no field that I consider completely drained.

11906. If you had not laid out so much in draining would your farm have been profitable

133

profitable to you?—I consider that the draining that I did paid me the outlay decidedly.

11907. Would it have been profitable without your having laid out that money in draining?—I do not think my draining has been to that extent as materially to affect the general return, but whatever money I have laid out in draining I have been well paid for.

11908. If you had not laid out the capital you have in draining, could you have farmed this farm of 560 acres at a profit?—Yes, because I consider that the extent of draining which has hitherto been executed, does not in any material degree increase the value of the farm.

11909. Mr. *Dunlop.*] Would not the farm be worth more than five per cent. per annum more if it were drained, than it would be worth without being drained?—Most decidedly.

11910. Mr. *Cayley.*] Have you any objection to state the incomings upon the farm upon which the outgoings are 1,337*l.*?—It has not been given to me; that would show the profit.

11911. You have given the outgoings, but you know nothing of your own personal knowledge of the incomings?—No.

11912. Mr. *Loch.*] Could you, after a little consideration, give the outgoings and the incomings of your own farm for one year, as it has been given by other witnesses, both from Scotland and England?—I will do so.

11913. Mr. *Cayley.*] Supposing the clay of this farm to be entirely in the same state of cultivation as it was when you entered it, and you had had none of the advantages of draining and other advantages, would you be able to cultivate it to a profit?—I have had no advantage of draining; I have done it all at my own expense.

11914. Supposing that farm was no better in any respect now than it was in 1820, would you be able to cultivate to a profit at the present price of corn?—At the present price of stock too; not of corn alone.

11915. You would not be able to cultivate it at the present price of corn if you had nothing else?—No; but no arable farm can be kept in condition without a considerable portion of grass.

11916. If it was not for the profit you got upon stock, could you get a profit upon the growth of your corn?—It would not have been a profit the last two or three years.

11917. In the old times of farming, was it usual for the farmer to depend for a profit upon his wheat, not requiring his stock to pay for the growth of his wheat?—I think they depended too much upon the profit of their wheat, but the land could not go on on that system.

11918. In former times, was not wheat the paying crop upon a farm?—Yes; but wheat cannot be grown without the land is in condition, and manure is provided.

11919. But wheat was grown to a profit before 1820?—It was; the price was very different then.

11920. And without any reference to the cattle, and the stock upon a number of acres, the wheat would then pay its own expenses, and a profit besides?—Decidedly.

11921. And it will not do so now?—Not the last two or three years, speaking of wheat alone; but I consider that, combined with the stock and the other parts of the farm, it would pay.

11922. Your land has very much improved in every respect since 1820?—I think there is a very great improvement in the farming interest the last eight or ten years.

11923. Supposing prices were the same now as in 1820, how much more is that farm worth than in 1820?—That is a question that again leads into profit.

11924. Supposing the prices were the same, and you paid a pound an acre in 1820, how much an acre would it be worth now, taking into consideration all the improvements made upon that farm?—I am not aware that there is very much difference. Whatever lime has been employed will be exhausted before the end of my lease. I laid out about 2,000*l.* upon liming my farm at the commencement of the lease.

11925. Is not all the money you have laid out in draining worth the improvement?—Yes, and it was done almost entirely at my own expense. Were I to com-

Mr. *William Bell.*

27 April 1836.

mence a new lease, I would drain to a much greater extent, as I consider that draining in clay soils ought to precede all other improvements.

11926. Have you any advantage in Berwickshire in consequence of steam navigation?—We have this year; there is now a very considerable transit of fat stock to the London market.

11927. And the price of stock is very high in the London market?—Yes, and that has raised the price very much with us.

11928. Do you know the reason of that rise of price in the London market?—The increased consumption.

11929. Did you ever hear that in the whole almost of the southern counties there were no turnips last year?—So I have heard; but the same quantity of sheep would be bred in the country that were usually bred, and they must be fed somewhere.

11930. Are not turnips generally used for the feed of the cattle for the London market?—Yes.

11931. If there were no turnips in the South would not that tend to make winter food much scarcer?—Of course it would.

11932. Would not the price of meat in the London market be higher in consequence of the winter food being scarce here?—Of course.

11933. Then if that higher price has arisen from the scarcity of food, and the Southern farmer has not had that food, will the Southern farmer have gained any advantage by the higher price of meat?—Of course not.

11934. Then you in Berwickshire have had an advantage which the Southern farmer had not?—Certainly, we have profited by that.

11935. Four or five years ago were there any extensive losses in sheep in your district?—I am not aware of any.

11936. Did you ever hear of the rot in sheep that took place extensively in England?—Yes, I have often heard of it in particular seasons.

11937. You did not experience anything of it yourself?—No, very little in Berwickshire.

11938. Are you aware that the sheep flocks in England were very extensively swept off at that period?—I have heard so.

11939. Would that produce a scarcity of sheep?—Naturally it would.

11940. Would the price of sheep rise in consequence?—Decidedly.

11941. Then if you did not lose your sheep you would have a higher price in consequence?—That is the natural consequence.

11942. Do you think that may be one reason why you have been doing well while some of your neighbours have not been doing well?—No; perhaps I have lost as many sheep as any of my neighbours, because no farm in that county would be more liable to produce it than my own.

11943. But there were a great many losses in England?—I am not aware of the extent of them.

11944. Do you remember before that took place that the price of sheep was lower in England?—Yes.

11945. And in consequence after that rot they became higher?—Perhaps they did; but I do not ascribe the rise in stock to that cause at all.

11946. Did your land ever give the rot?—One or two years a little, but not to any great extent.

11947. You have said that the seasons for wheat have been abundant for the last three or four years, how have they been for barley and oats?—They have been fair average crops.

11948. Is there any limestone land, or land of a light sandy nature in Berwickshire?—The verge of the county both on the northern and the southern parts are turnip soils.

11949. Do you know what sort of barley crops they had upon those light sandy or limestone soils in 1833 and 1834?—They were fair average crops, and the two last years they have been very abundant.

11950. You speak that of your own knowledge?—Yes.

11951. Taking the tenantry of Berwickshire as a body do you think they are richer or poorer now than they were 16 years ago?—I will not exactly say that they are richer; but I do not think there is much capital lost in Berwickshire.

11952. Have they been labouring 16 years only with this result of being just as rich and no richer than they were 16 years ago?—I think they have preserved their capital and perhaps a little more.

11953. If in England they have lost their capital, you think the advantage you have had in Scotland has been not to lose your capital but just to preserve it?—That is a very great advantage in times of pressure.

11954. Mr. *Dunlop.*] Have not they brought up their families?—They have, and most respectably.

11955. Mr. *Cayley.*] In ordinary times of farming did the great body of farmers in Berwick expect not to increase their capital by 16 years application of labour and skill?—Certainly; I think there are several cases where they have very much increased their capital; but there are no doubt cases in which they have not increased it, because farming depends very much upon the skill of the individual.

11956. But taking the great body of farmers before 1820, do you think their capital was stationary for that 16 years?—Perhaps not, but the burthens were very heavy; at that period they had the property tax and other burthens.

11957. Before 1820 the property tax existed, but in despite of that the farmers of Berwickshire were increasing their capital?—I think they were upon the whole.

11958. Can you name any other period when the capital of the farmers of Berwickshire was stationary for 16 years?—I only went there in 1820.

11959. Where did you live before?—In Roxburghshire.

11960. There have been complaints before this Committee of considerable distress in Northumberland; that is the adjoining county to Berwickshire?—Yes; I am not aware that any distress exists there.

11961. You see no reason why distress should exist in Northumberland?—No, I do not; it is a remarkably well farmed county, and sufficiently grazed, and keeps a great quantity of stock.

11962. You do not think there is any advantage in Berwickshire in point of skill over Northumberland?—I am not aware that there is; Northumberland is generally very well farmed.

11963. You have spoken of the importations of Irish produce; do you speak of that within your own knowledge?—Not personal knowledge; but I am aware that the higher species of food in Ireland is not consumed by the population but exported.

11964. You suppose that there has been a great increase in the importation of Irish produce into this country?—So it is understood.

11965. If it should be proved that for the last three years the imports from Ireland had been decreasing, would that tend to alter your opinion?—If you have an abundant crop at home, whatever you add to it will reduce the price; it will not affect a scarce crop, but it will affect a large crop.

11966. Do you remember any great falls in the price of agricultural produce before the last two or three years?—There were occasional falls.

11967. Do you remember the great fall about 1820, 1821 and 1822?—Yes.

11968. What do you think caused that fall?—I am not prepared to say; there was a change in the state of the country about that time from war to peace.

11969. Had there been any change immediately before that?—I believe there was a change in the currency at that time.

11970. Do you think that would have any effect in producing a fall of prices?—I think that all changes for a certain period must produce an impression, but it wears off after it has found its proper level.

11971. Do you think that the effect of a change in the currency so far as prices are concerned will wear off?—The question is whether it reduces the prices to their natural standard, the proper level.

11972. What do you call the proper level or standard of prices of wheat or barley?—The proper standard of the price of wheat is the means of the consumer of purchasing it.

11973. Do you think we are now reduced to the proper standard of prices?—I am not aware; the prosperity of the country may raise the price by producing a greater consumption.

11974. Do you think we are in a prosperous state now?—I think we are progressing to a prosperous state.

11975. We were in an adverse state before?—It was considered the last three or four years that we were, but I think there is a decided change to amendment, and I consider that that arises very much from the prosperous state of our commercial and manufacturing interests.

Mr. *William Bell.*

27 April 1836.

11976. Do you consider that the consequence of the change of currency in 1819 was to produce a fall in prices?—It was a revulsion at the time.

11977. Do you remember the time when the bank restriction took place in 1797?—Yes, I do.

11978. Had that any effect in raising prices?—It had a magical effect; it raised the prices of most articles of farming produce from 100 to 200 per cent., and likewise the rent of land in an equal proportion.

11979. Do you think that when the change took place from the restriction of cash payments in 1797, which you say had a magical effect in raising prices, to the resumption of cash payments in 1819, which entirely set aside the change of currency in 1797, the necessary consequence of that was to create a similar fall of prices?—It reduced them to something near the former standard, though not exactly, because the manufactures of the country at the latter period were in a much better state, or at least a great increase in the consumption had taken place, and as a much more profitable mode of cultivation is now practised, the distress was not so much felt.

11980. Is it your opinion that as the bank restriction of 1797 caused a magical rise of prices, the resumption of cash payments in 1819 caused a magical fall of prices?—Not to the same extent.

11981. Do you think you have any advantage in Berwickshire over your Northumberland brethren in having 1*l.* notes?—It is a great facility certainly to the farmer the having 1*l.* notes.

11982. How would you like them to be taken from you?—I would certainly not wish to see the state of banking changed in Scotland, as I think it is upon a very secure and proper tenure; our notes are in perfect security; but in England it was not the case.

11983. Do you see any reason why your Northumberland brethren should not enjoy them as well as you?—I think there is very good reason from the way in which the banks of this country were constituted.

11984. You think that the Scotch bankers are a cleverer set of men?—No; but they are all personally bound to the whole extent of their obligations; every shareholder is liable for the whole issues.

11985. Is that the case with all the banks of Scotland?—I understand so.

11986. Is that the case with the chartered banks?—I believe it is.

11987. You are aware that there are a considerable number of chartered banks in Scotland?—Yes; three or four.

11988. Do not you know that they have only a limited liability to the extent of their shares?—I am not aware of that.

11989. Are you not aware that there are a considerable number of joint-stock banks in England now?—That is a late thing.

11990. Do you see any reason why they should not issue 1*l.* notes, as well as the joint-stock banks in Scotland?—I am not prepared to speak upon that subject.

11991. Do you think that the Northumberland bankers give accommodation as easily as the Scotch bankers do?—I am not sure that they give the same facility; but I believe that all persons in good credit in Northumberland can get such credit as they deserve.

11992. Twenty years ago could a farmer of good credit get accommodation upon his stock, or upon his stacks in his rick-yard?—It is not done in that shape.

11993. Could he have done that 20 years ago?—I do not know; but he would not have attempted to do it in that shape; he would have discounted an accommodation bill at the bankers.

11994. Is that the usual way of accommodating farmers in Northumberland?—I believe it is. In Scotland when bank accommodation is required, the usual practice is to obtain small cash credits, which is much better than discounting bills.

11995. Is not the system of accommodating farmers in England, generally speaking, the system of cash credits?—I am not aware.

11996. Setting aside the mode in which it is done, is not it the fact, that 20 years ago a farmer of good character could get accommodation from a banker much more easily than he can now?—I am not aware how it is in England; it is not the case in Scotland; there never was greater facility in Scotland than there

137

Mr. *William Bell.*

27 April 1836.

is now. At the same time I would beg to state, that I do not think bank credit is absolutely necessary for the farmer.

11997. If he has plenty of money?—I think no man should take more land than he has money to meet the outlay of stocking and cultivating.

11998. Are not you aware that the farmers of this country, generally speaking, have not been a very monied set of people?—I am not aware of the state of the farmers in England.

11999. What is the price of corn which you think would bring your land into a state of profitable cultivation?—We consider 7*s.* a bushel a remunerating price for wheat.

12000. What should you think a proper price for barley?—About 28*s.* a quarter.

12001. And oats?—About a guinea or 22*s.* a quarter.

12002. If you require those prices in Scotland, where your local burthens are not so great as they are in England, the English farmer would require higher prices?—The consumer would make no distinction I suppose as to that.

12003. In order to cultivate the land profitably, where there are heavy burthens, it would be necessary that there should be a higher price?—I am not aware of that; the consumer would go to the cheapest market he could find.

12004. If the English farmer had a higher price, your price would be raised up to his?—Certainly; but because a man lives in a country where he is heavily taxed, I am not aware that that raises the price.

12005. If, by any legislative measure, it be possible to uphold the prices, in order to assist the farmer, would you say that that would be desirable?—I think it would be a very improper thing to do; it would oppress the consumer to relieve the farmer.

12006. Then you would rather that the land in England, which requires a higher price, should cease to be cultivated, than raise the prices to meet the wants of the farmer?—No; I think the rent should be assimilated to the prices; a man should pay less rent if he receives less prices.

12007. *Chairman.*] If you had greater burthens upon your farms in Scotland you would pay less rent?—Yes.

12008. If you took a farm in England, the first enquiry you would make would be what would be the public burthens upon it?—Certainly; If I thought the land was worth 30*s.* an acre, if the burthens were 15*s.*, I would offer 15*s.* an acre for it.

12009. You were asked about the profits upon your farm; have they been confined to one year, or have they been spread equally over the whole number of years you have occupied the farm?—Two years ago the price of wheat was low, and the profit was less, but this year I consider the profit to be very fair.

12010. And the returns upon that farm, upon every course of husbandry, have been sufficient to yield you a fair profit?—Yes.

12011. Your land does not grow turnips?—It does not.

12012. Do you keep a breeding stock?—No, upon clay soil it is not safe to do so; we have what we call a running stock.

12013. Mr. *Loch.*] If you bought in your stock when prices were high you paid so much more for your stock?—Yes, and we expect to sell high again.

12014. Mr. *Miles.*] In any fair annual amount of profit and loss must not only the prices of the different grains you grow but the cost of the flock be taken into consideration?—Yes; but the natural system is that they should be bred upon the farm, but upon clay lands you cannot do that with safety; it is done upon all turnip soils.

12015. But even with a running stock, must you not take into consideration the different value at which you bought in and can sell out your flock?—Yes, that is the actual profit.

12016. Mr. *Loch.*] Have there been any farms let lately in your part of the country?—Yes, several.

12017. Are there any out of occupation now that you can get no tenants for?—Quite the reverse; tenants cannot get them.

12018. Those farms that have been let, have they been let at the same rents or at higher rents than they were let at previously?—I think on turnip soils they are giving as much rent or more than they did 20 years ago; there is a great demand for them by tenants of skill and capital.

Mr. *William Bell.*

27 April 1836.

12019. Upon clay lands what is the case?—The competition is not the same, but they are letting readily at a fair rent.

12020. Have the rents of such land dropped much since the war?—Of course they have, because during the war the value of land was very capricious, but 20 years ago the war was over.

12021. Earl of *Lincoln.*] Did you say that the rent on turnip soils had been increased the last few years?—The last twelve months.

12022. You attribute that of course to the improvement in the price of meat?—I do.

12023. To what do you attribute the improvement in the price of meat?—To the increase and prosperity of the commercial and manufacturing interests.

12024. Do not you think the opening of the new English market to Scotch meat has increased?—Yes; but the markets, unless there are consumers, can be of no use.

12025. Is not a good deal of dead meat sent from Berwick to supply the London market?—Within the last two years there is.

12026. Do you consider the state in which the country has been to be a state of depression or not?—Prices have been considerably reduced, and less profit got, but I do not consider that in well cultivated land much loss has ensued.

12027. Mr. *Miles.*] How long has grazing your flock remunerated you; has it throughout the whole of your lease, taking it year by year?—Yes; less some years than others.

12028. Mr. *Loch.*] Have you altered the management of your farm according to the state of the markets; that is to say, when corn was high had you more under cultivation, and when corn was low had you more under grass?—I certainly ploughed less land when the prices of corn became low, and by that means my farm will be prepared for ploughing more liberally if corn should rise in price.

12029. Is it your opinion that your district is going on improving in agriculture?—Decidedly.

12030. In your opinion can Parliament do any thing to relieve the farmers?—I am not satisfied that they have the power of doing any thing; if they did any thing I think it would only shift the burthen to the consumer.

12031. Have you ever thought whether the corn laws affect the farmer beneficially or otherwise?—The present corn laws have operated of late as a complete prohibition against the sale of foreign corn, and I cannot conceive that any other protection can be given beyond a monopoly of the market.

12031.* Do you conceive that a system of average, such as the present, or a fixed duty, would be beneficial to the farmer?—I am not sure that a fixed duty would not be ultimately the most satisfactory; but it is a difficult question, because a fixed duty in scarce seasons would not be submitted to.

12032. Upon the whole are you satisfied with the present corn law?—I should consider it a complete protection against foreign corn.

12033. And you would make no alteration?—Unless an alteration was made to a fixed duty.

12034. Mr. *Handley.*] What is your reason for supposing a fixed duty would be preferable?—By the present corn law, whenever the price approaches near the rate at which the foreign corn can be brought into the market with a profit, the prices may possibly be run up to that rate by artificial means; thus a great quantity of corn would be improperly liberated and thrown upon the market, and this might probably depress the market for the whole season; now at a fixed duty that could not take place.

12035. Do you consider that a fixed duty would have the effect of preventing fluctuation?—I think so; I think it would make the price more uniform.

12036. You are aware that there are two articles of agricultural produce that for years were subject to a fixed duty, namely, wool and tallow, are you aware whether or no they have not fluctuated very considerably in price?—They have fluctuated very much; but I understood that wool was only at a penny a pound, a mere nominal duty.

12037. During the years in which there was a high protecting duty upon those that you name, can you name any two articles of agricultural produce that varied so much in price?—It certainly fluctuated very much.

12038. Has the foreign corn imported into this country been the surplus corn of Europe, or has it been grown expressly for this market?—I believe that it is the surplus corn of Europe; this is the best market they can bring it to.

139

12039. If by a fixed duty you made this market a certain market, is it your opinion that considerable tracts of country might not be brought into cultivation on the Continent expressly to supply this market?—Perhaps they might to a certain extent.

12040. Would not that be prejudicial to the farmers of this country?—They would probably take something else from us in lieu of that.

12041. Under the present system of corn laws when a prohibition lasts so many years as it has done, is not that the best protection against the growth of foreign corn for the supply of this market?—I have stated distinctly that I think the farmer has no reason to complain of the present law; that it is a sufficient protection to him.

12042. Have you ever considered what would be the proper amount of fixed duty?—My notion would be, if a fixed duty was to take place I would lay it on as high as the country could bear it, and I would reduce it gradually 1*s.* or 2*s.* every year till it came to a nominal duty, and during the operation of that the landlord and tenant would come to an adjustment, and the land would find its natural value.

12043. At what would you begin, and where would you stop?—It would require a great deal of consideration.

12044. Mr. *Sanford.*—How many years has this system of cultivation of the clay land been introduced in Scotland?—Probably the last 20 or 30 years.

12045. Previously to 1820?—Yes; it was usual previous to that period to follow the four shift husbandry, but I consider that very injurious, and cannot be maintained without a great deal of foreign manure.

12046. Are you aware of the rents paid for the same land for that period?—The rent has varied very much; I have mentioned that my farm was 500*l.* a year, and now it is 762*l.*

12047. And you attribute that entirely to the improved system of cultivation?—I could not pay that rent unless I farmed it upon a very different system from the mode practised formerly.

12048. What amount of capital per acre has been expended upon that farm?—I consider it takes between 4*l.* and 5*l.* an acre to put a proper stock upon the farm.

12049. The question refers to permanent improvement?—I referred to the stocking of the farm; the extent of improvements depends upon the occupier; some men will lay out 1,000*l.*, and others not half, and others not one-fourth.

12050. Then do you mean that a larger rent is produced by employing a larger quantity of capital and live stock upon the farm; or is it that there has been a larger quantity of capital expended in permanent improvements?—From the large sums expended in permanent improvements the condition of the land is greatly ameliorated, and consequently there is a much larger quantity of produce grown, and a greater quantity of stock kept.

12051. What is the quantity of lime per acre that you are in the habit of placing upon the land?—We cannot lime properly under 4*l.* or 5*l.* per acre.

12052. How many bushels do you place upon an acre?—It varies very much upon different land; the turnip soil does not require so much as the clay land.

12053. Upon the heavy clay land?—We generally give 10 or 12 single cart-loads per acre.

12054. How many imperial bushels would that be?—About 200 bushels per acre.

12055. How frequently is that liming repeated?—We consider that once in the lease is sufficient, once in 19 or 20 years, if the land is gently treated afterwards, and not over cropped.

12056. You conceive that one liming will be of sufficient duration to give an improvement in the land for the term?—Yes.

12057. And at the end of that period it is necessary to lime again?—I think it is.

12058. How long will the draining last?—It is considered a permanent improvement, and it will certainly last a great deal longer than the lease.

12059. What is the expense per acre of draining?—It depends upon circumstances. I believe that the furrow-draining will cost from 7*l.* to 8*l.* per acre, if the stones can be got easily and at a moderate distance. If it is done with tiles, it will cost a great deal more.

Mr. *William Bell.*

27 April 1836.

12060. Mr. *Evans.*] How deep do you fill it with stones?—About from 16 to 18 inches.

12061. You have 16 inches of soil over the drain?—Yes, or 18 inches.

12062. In the course of a few years the expenses of your farm would greatly diminish?—Yes.

12063. Earl of *Lincoln.*] Did you mean to say that there is no relief in the power of the Legislature to bestow, which you would wish to see afforded to the farming interest?—There is none except the remission of the taxes that affect the farmers.

12064. Do you grow any clover?—No.

12065. Have you ever considered whether the remission of the duty on clover seed would be desirable?—Certainly; it would be desirable because it is only grown by three or four counties in England, and it has the effect of giving them a monopoly over the rest of the kingdom; and in a farm of 500 acres it would give a relief to the extent of about 15*l.* a year.

12066. Are you of opinion that the foreign clover seed is superior to that grown in England?—It should be, for the climate is better.

12067. Mr. *Sanford.*] Do you prefer the foreign clover seed?—No, I do not; we take them indiscriminately; we consider the seed from Holland very good.

12068. Do you ever find that the seed from Holland has failed you?—They all fail in the red clover.

12069. When you first purchase it is it not apt to fail?—Not more so than the English, it is generally very good.

12070. Earl of *Lincoln.*] Is your preference of the English clover seed to the Dutch in consequence of its superiority or in consequence of its being lower in price?—I mentioned before that I have no preference for the English clover seed. I consider the Dutch fully as good; the prices are nearly the same.

12071. Mr. *Evans.*] Does your ground get tired of clover?—Yes, it does.

12072. After how many years?—In the four shift husbandry the clover will not remain but goes out.

12073. Can you repeat clover twice in eight years?—Twice in 10 or 12 years we consider very safe; that is, farming on the five or six shift system.

12074. But by constant cropping with clover you find that the land gets tired of it?—Yes.

12075. Mr. *Miles.*] You have stated that you consider that 7*s.* a bushel for wheat would be a remunerating price to the farmer. Do you consider that looking at the average of the last three years you can establish 7*s.* a bushel as an average price?—No.

12076. If you cannot, must not the rents fall?—The crops have been abundant the last three years, which compensates in some degree for the lowness of the price.

12077. Under the present system of corn laws do you suppose that you can maintain 7*s.* a bushel as the price?—I think probably we can; I think that probably the price of wheat next year will be higher than it has been the last two or three years, and I consider that it will pay at that price.

12078. Mr. *Loch.*] When you talk of a remunerating price you have reference to the rent of the land you pay?—Yes.

12079. *Chairman.*] And the cost of cultivating the particular description of soil?—Yes.

12080. Earl of *Lincoln.*] You said that the only legislative relief would be a remission of such taxes as press upon agriculture. To what taxes do you particularly allude?—I allude more particularly to the malt tax. I think it would be very desirable if that could be remitted, but it seems to be allowed upon all hands that the revenue cannot admit of its abolition without a substitute being provided from some other source. This would be only shifting the burthen from the farmer to some other class of the community, and would be affecting some other branch of industry which might have as much reason to complain as the farmer. I cannot see that that would be attended with the beneficial effects anticipated, as the burthen would be reverting in a greater or less degree upon the agricultural interest.

12081. Are you of opinion that the remission of the malt tax to be a benefit to the farmer must be a total remission?—Yes, if it is remitted at all; because, in a partial remission, nearly the same machinery and the same expense would exist as at present; it would be more desirable that there should be a total remission.

12082. Mr.

141

Mr. *William Bell.*

27 April 1836.

12082. Mr. *Loch.*] Would it be a benefit to the landlord or the tenant?—It would ultimately come to the landlord.

12083. Mr. *Miles.*] At the same time would it not be a relief to the tenant as far as regards the consumption of beer?—It would only be a relief in existing leases, and perhaps the rise in the price of barley would not be equivalent to the reduction of the tax.

12084. And the consumer would so far benefit?—Yes.

12085. If you had the option between the imposition of a property tax and tne total remission of the malt tax which would you choose?—I think a property tax should never be imposed except in the last necessity.

Mr. *William Brown*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *William Brown.*

12086. Mr. *Dunlop.*] Where do you reside?—At Greenock Mains, in Ayrshire.

12087. Do you farm yourself?—Yes.

12088. How many acres have you?—About 400 imperial acres.

12089. How long have you been a farmer?—Nineteen years.

12090. Are you well acquainted with the general state of agriculture in Ayrshire as well as your own farm?—Yes; I lately had a conversation with a great many of my friends in the county of Ayr upon the subject of agriculture, particularly since I knew that I was to be summoned here.

12091. Did you go through almost all the parishes in your neighbourhood?—I went through a great many of the parishes of the county, and made inquiry.

12092. What are the descriptions of soil in Ayrshire?—The soils in Ayrshire are very different; the county stretches along the coast, and towards the shore and along the banks of the rivers there is a good deal of light land; further up in the county there is strong clay land; then towards the upper part of the county there is a good deal of waste, uncultivated land.

12093. As to the heavy clay soil, what sort of soil is that in its natural state?—Generally wet.

12094. How many bushels an acre would you expect upon that land before it was improved?—Some parts of it grow but little, and other parts grow a good quantity, even it its present state; generally speaking, I should think from five to six quarters of oats.

12095. Mr. *Loch.*] Does it grow wheat at all?—It is not a wheat country, but there is a good deal of wheat grown in some parts, particularly since the system of draining has been introduced.

12096. Mr. *Dunlop.*] When you state the produce of an acre, do you mean a Scotch acre?—Yes.

12097. Can it be materially improved by the outlay of capital upon it?—Yes.

12098. What kind of improvement is the first that is generally made upon that wet land?—Draining is the first improvement.

12099. Are those drains generally made by the landlord or by the tenant?—Sometimes in the one way and sometimes in the other; the Duke of Portland, who introduced draining into our county, and has prosecuted it further than any other proprietor, is at the expense of draining, and the tenants pay him a per centage.

12100. About what amount?—About five per cent.

12101. Are the tenants in Ayrshire generally ready to pay five per cent. upon the outlay in draining?—I think so.

12102. Can you state what increase of production is generally caused by draining in that way?—It differs according to the quality of the land, and the degree of wetness; but I should think from one-third to one-fourth additional produce, if it is properly cultivated.

12103. What rent is generally charged for that clay land?—The rents vary much; but I should say the average per Scotch acre may be from about 30*s.* to 45*s.*

12104. Is that a money-rent or a corn-rent?—In most instances it is a money-rent; but in some instances the rent is paid according to the fiars prices of the county in grain and other produce, such as cheese.

12105. Can you state what is the length of the leases in Ayrshire?—Generally for 18 or 19 years.

Mr. *William Brown.*

27 April 1836.

12106. Can you state the expense of furrow-draining an acre?—The expense of the draining depends upon the distance at which the drains are introduced.

12107. Will you state the most improved system?—Upon the most retentive subsoil, the distance is generally from 10 to 12 feet; the depth of the drain is 22 inches, and the width varies according as it is intended to be filled.

12108. Mr. *Loch.*] What is put into the drain?—Sometimes filled with stones and sometimes with tiles.

12109. *Chairman.*] What is the upper soil?—Partly clay and partly loamy.

12110. Mr. *Dunlop.*] What is the expence of it per statute acre?—At 12 feet distance it would be 7*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.* an acre.

12111. Earl of *Lincoln.* Is that with tiles or stones?—There is not much difference in the expense.

12112. Mr. *Miles.*] Have you stones near?—There are plenty of stones to be had generally near.

12113. What thickness of stone do you lay at the bottom?—If they are broken the same as road metal is, generally about a foot of broken stones.

12114. Mr. *Loch.*] If you make use of tiles do you put any stones above the tiles?—None.

12115. What do you put above the tiles?—A turf, cut from the grass surface of the land, or straw.

12116. How then do you fill up the drain?—By putting in the soil which was taken out of the original drain.

12117. How deep do you fill up the tile drains?—The tiles themselves raise the drain about six inches, then a sod of three or four inches thick is put above the tile, and, generally speaking, a quantity of the earth which came out of the drain above that, and then the furrow is ploughed in above the whole.

12118. Mr. *Dunlop.*] How many inches of earth will you have above the tile? From eight to sixteen, according to the depth of the furrow in which the drain is put.

12119. If you only filled it eight inches, you would calculate upon bringing down the furrow?—Of course the ridges rise generally high in the centre, and hollow in the original furrow.

12120. Can you state what depth you would expect the drain to stand; how many inches would there be above the tile?—About as much as would be a large furrow above the sod, which is immediately put in above the tile, from 9 to 12 inches.

12121. What would it be altogether?—From 13 inches to 16 inches.

12122. Mr. *Loch.*] You stated the expense at 7*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.* an acre?—At the distance of 12 feet; but at the distance of 18 feet it is 5*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.*

12123. How many acres on any one farm of the Duke of Portland do you suppose are so drained to a considerable extent upon which the tenants pay him five per cent. upon the capital?—I suppose many of the farms are more than half drained.

12124. How much addition does it make to the rent?—Five shillings an acre is the additional rent paid upon drained land at a distance of 18 feet, and if it is done at 36 feet, half a crown an acre.

12125. And that they pay willingly?—That they pay willingly.

12126. Mr. *Dunlop.*] Does the tenant in addition to the five per cent. cart the tiles?—Yes.

12127. And furnish the straw in many cases?—Yes.

12128. Mr. *Evans.*] Do you lay in the stones indiscriminately, or lay a first course?—Some do it one way and some the other, it depends a good deal upon the kind of stones; if they are round land stones they are generally broken and thrown in, if they are quarried stones, which can be raised in beds or layers, they are generally set with the hand and a water-course left.

12129. Mr. *Loch.*] What is the depth of your ploughing?—We plough generally about from six to eight inches deep.

12130. Do not you disturb the subsoil at all?—The more improved mode of husbandry is now to subsoil plough the land; but it is found that the drains put in will not admit of a subsoil ploughing, and that they, the farmers, must either make them deeper, or else they will not be able to get the subsoil plough used.

12131. When you talk of subsoiling what is the system?—The general plan is to plough with a common plough the depth of an ordinary furrow, at seven or eight

eight inches, and then the subsoil plough follows in the same line, deepening the soil, but not bringing up the subsoil so as to cover the first furrows; the one plough in fact follows the other.

12132. What is the nature of the plough that you plough the subsoil with?—It is much the same as the common plough, only stronger, and without a mould board.

12133. How deep do you go altogether?—About from 16 to 18 inches.

12134. Is that found to be very beneficial upon those subsoils?—It has not been long tried, but great benefit is expected to be derived from it.

12135. Mr. *Dunlop.*] Have the crops been looking well upon those subsoil lands?—Yes.

12136. Mr. *Handley.*] How many horses do you employ upon those subsoil ploughs?—It depends upon the stiffness of the subsoil; if the subsoil is not stiff, two are generally used; but stiff subsoils are ploughed with three or four horses, accompanied with men with picks and hoes, to raise up the stones.

12137. Does the Duke of Portland make his own tiles?—He does.

12138. Do you know the cost per 1,000?—He does not sell any; but I believe at other tile works where they are sold, they cost about 1*l.* 5*s.* the 1,000.

12139. What is the length of them?—A foot.

12140. *Chairman.*] What is the diameter?—About three inches wide and four to six inches deep.

12141. Mr. *Handley.*] Have you ever calculated how many it requires to an acre of land 18 feet apart?—I know that a calculation has been made, say 21¼ roods of 36 yards, and the tile one foot long, it would require 2,295 tiles.

12142. In counting 5*l.* as the cost of drainage do you place the tiles at the market price, or at the price at which they may be made by the proprietor?—That is the price which the proprietor charges the tenant for them.

12143. And upon that 5*l.* the tenant finds it his interest to pay five per cent.?—Yes, besides carting the tiles.

12144. Supposing he did it at his own expense, how long do you suppose it would be before it paid?—In good land, which was very much in want of draining, in from five to seven years, and in some instances more.

12145. Can you give an account of the whole cost of the tiles in the first place and putting them in?—

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Say 100 main drain tiles and soles at 6*s.* 3*d.* - -	–	6	3
2,295 small tiles at 2*s.* 6*d.* per 100 - - -	2	17	6
Cutting 765 yards of drains, and filling and dressing up after tiles are put in, at ½ *d.* per yard - -	1	11	10
Putting the tiles carefully in by day's wages - - -	–	10	8
	£.5	6	3

The prices of tiles must fall, as there are 25 tile works in Ayrshire, and more in contemplation.

12146. Mr. *Miles.*] How often is it necessary to use the subsoil plough?—It has been so recently introduced that we cannot say; but it is expected that one subsoiling may be sufficient for the length of the lease.

12147. Of course, the great beneficial result from the subsoiling plough is getting rid of the top water?—Yes, and gradually deepening the soil.

12148. From the short experience you have had, do you find that the subsoiling is much more beneficial where it has been well drained?—We have only had the experience of subsoiling for about two years; but I should think that land that is both drained and subsoiled would be in a better state to receive the crop than when it had only been drained and not subsoiled.

12149. At what would you put the expense per acre of using the subsoil plough?—Upon that land which cannot be subsoiled with less than four horses, of course it would be a double expense of ploughing.

12150. Taking the four horses, what would be the expense?—It cannot be less than about 16*s.* or 20*s.* an acre, if you use four horses.

12151. Mr. *Dunlop.*] Do you find, from the draining, a great improvement in the grass?—Yes.

12152. Which has enabled farmers to get a much improved breed of cattle?—Yes.

Mr. William Brown.

27 April 1836.

12153. With all those improvements, what is the state of the farmer; is he able to pay the rent which you have given as the rent of those farms?—I am not aware of almost any arrears of rent.

12154. What is your own state as a farmer; is it better or worse than it was a few years ago?—Better.

12155. You state that from an actual valuation of your stock?—Yes, I take a valuation every year.

12156. You know that the result is an improved result?—Yes.

12157. Can you state the rotation generally followed upon the heavy land?—The general rotation in Ayrshire is from six to nine years; the leases are made eighteen or nineteen years to suit that rotation, and they get twice through the land in nineteen years, upon the nine-years' course; and three times upon the six-years' course. The first year is generally in grass, rented at a less price, till the farmer gets things prepared, so as to go on regularly with his rotation; then, after he gets his land prepared by liming and manuring, he ploughs it, a third or fourth, according to his agreement with his landlord, and sows oats upon it; the other two-thirds or three-fourths is in grass. The farm is divided into so many fields that one field is taken from grass each year, so that there is a field in what is called ley or ley-corn; another in a green crop, and the third in white crop, and sown down with grass seeds. Where the six years' rotation is followed, two successive white crops are taken, and no green crop; and the grass seeds are sown with the second crop, and so on through the whole course of the lease.

12158. How many years of grass afterwards?—Either four or six, according as he takes two crops or three crops.

12159. Is it not six, generally, upon a dairy farm?—Six, generally, upon a dairy farm.

12160. Can you give any statement of the expenses and the profits of such a rotation of crop?—I have not made up the expense.

12161. Could you make up such statement for the committee?—I think I could upon a given case; but any such statement could not be satisfactory, as it must vary in every farm, according to the expense of manure, cartage, tolls, and nature of the soil.

12162. What is the general condition of the farmers, upon those heavy soils, at the present time?—Upon pretty large farms, where the tenant is industrious, and has a good capital, I consider that they are doing very fairly, they are making things better, rather than worse: upon small farms again, in poor soil, where the tenant has not much capital, I dare say they are not improving their condition much.

12163. What do you call a large farm?—The farms in Ayrshire are generally small; 150 acres is considered a large farm: we have in some instances farms much larger than that, but generally speaking they are from 50 to 100 or 150 acres.

12164. When you say that small farmers without capital are not improving their condition much, do you consider that a man without capital has a right to expect to do well in any trade?—No, he has nothing to lose.

12165. Have there been any improvements made upon the light soils of Ayrshire? Yes; by cleaning, and manuring with the sea-weed along the shore.

12166. How have they paid?—They are improving their condition; they get their manure at little expense, and I believe they are doing as well as any other class in the country.

12167. Do you consider the condition of the farmers upon the light soils to be good?—I consider that they are improving their condition as much as those upon the stronger soils, although their soil is more precarious from drought.

12168. Should you, as a practical man, be ready to take a farm at the rent you have stated?—Yes; more especially if the rent was to be partly converted according to the fiars, I should prefer taking a farm at a corn-rent.

12169. Do you calculate the prices remaining as low as they are at present? No; prices fluctuate very much: I have a statement of the prices at which I have sold for the last 19 years, of a variety of things.

12170. Is corn-rent general in Ayrshire?—Not general.

12171. *Mr. Loch.*] Does it, where it exists, apply to the whole rent, or only to a portion of the rent?—In some instances it applies to the whole rent, and in others, only partially. There is one estate near me where the rents are all in grain and cheese. Suppose a farm of 100*l.*, one half of the rent is paid in cheese, and the

145

the other half in oatmeal. The parties calculate at the commencement of the lease, what quantity of cheese will amount to 50*l.*, and what quantity of oatmeal will amount to the other 50*l.*; and this oatmeal is upheld by the landlord at 24*s.* the boll, or 140lb., at 16 ounces to the lb.; and cheese at 10*s.* 6*d* the Ayrshire stone of 16lb., of 24 ounces to the lb.

12172. Mr. *Dunlop.*] Is not the common mode, to say so many stones of cheese upon the farm, and to pay that at the market price?—So many stones of cheese and so many bolls of meal.

12173. Mr. *Loch.*] Then the price of oatmeal is settled by the fiars?—Yes

12174. How do they settle the price of cheese?—It is settled at the market price of the Kilmarnock market, on a certain day in November about Martinmas.

12175. Is there a regular clerk of the market, so that the price of cheese may be so fixed that there may be no dispute?—The landlord or his agent generally attends the market along with the farmer, and takes note of it.

12176. Is there no chance of their disagreeing?—There are sometimes disputes about it, but they do not ultimately disagree.

12177. In the cases where there are no corn-rents, but fixed rents, have the landlords been under the necessity of making advances to the tenants of late years?—In some instances they have, or, if they do not make allowances, they have taken them off their hands.

12178. Has that happened to a great extent?—Not to any great extent.

12179. Then the fixed rents have continued to be paid during the late seasons?—Yes, since the reduction of the prices subsequent to the war.

12180. Then, at the period immediately after the war, was there then a reduction of rent?—Yes; farms were either taken off the tenants' hands, or valued by men of skill and respectability, and the rent fixed according to their valuation.

12181. Then there was a considerable reduction of rent immediately after the war?—Yes; but the farms just now are rising, and there is a great demand for farms.

12182. How much per cent. are they rising?—I could not say as to the per centage; but I know that in the event of a farm coming out of lease, there are a great many people wishing to have it; and, in some instances, not fewer than 20 or 30 applicants.

12183. Persons of capital?—Yes.

12184. How long has that increased demand been in existence?—There was always a demand for farms, even at the worst times; but it is increasing yearly now.

12185. How should there have been a demand in the bad times for farms, if it was a losing trade?—I do not mean that there was a demand for them then at the advanced rent, but at a fair valuation, by people of skill and respectability.

12186. And now, there is not only a great demand, but an advance in the rents?—Yes.

12187. What was the reduction per cent. that took place immediately after the war?—I cannot exactly state the reduction per cent., but I know there was a great reduction.

12188. Is the rise that is now taking place any thing equal to the reduction that, then took place?—No, I do not think it is so high; the land which is now let for 2*l.* or 2*l.* 5*s.* was let above 3*l.* during the war times.

12189. Mr. *Miles.*] How much reduction took place upon the rent after the war. How far was it depressed from the war rent of 3*l.*?—It came down from 3*l.* to 2*l.* or 2*l.* 5*s.*, or about a third.

12190. Mr. *Handley.*] When you speak of 2*l.* 5*s.*, is that land which has been drained?—Land which is capable of being drained.

12191. In the 2*l.* 5*s.* do you include the five per cent. paid to the landlord?—No; that is in addition to the rent; but that rent applies to very good land, which carries large crops, when it is properly drained and managed.

12192. Mr. *Loch.*] What are the other out-goings that the tenant would have to pay in addition to his rent; what has he to pay for road money?—The road money, I think, is 1*l.* 10*s.* per 100*l.* Scots valuation; I do not suppose it is 1*s.* per acre, in any instance, and in most cases much less.

12193. Have you any poor rates?—None.

12194. Have you any payment to the schoolmaster?—Yes; the schoolmaster in each parish receives a salary, which is about 30*l.* a year.

Mr. *William Brown.*

27 April 1836.

12195. Do you pay any thing to the clergyman?—No; that is paid by the landlord.

12196. You have no out-goings of any consequence beyond the rent?—No.

12197. Mr. *Miles.*] What do the local and public burthens amount to upon your farm of 400 acres?—The assessed taxes upon my farm, for the county are about 8*l.* yearly, and the parish assessments, including both the landlord and tenant's share, amounts to about 15*l.*, so that the whole public burthens affecting my farm, both for the tenant and the landlord may amount to 23*l.* yearly.

12198. That includes what the landlord pays?—Yes; the tenant in general pays his share and gets a reduction.

12199. When he pays the rent?—Yes.

12200. Then upon the farm of 400 acres which you cultivate your public and parochial burdens are about 11*l.* 10*s.*?—Eleven pounds ten shillings affecting the tenant.

12201. Mr. *Dunlop.*] Have you a statement of the price at which you sold your produce for 19 years?—Yes, I have.

12202. Are the present prices much below the average price?—They are not much below the average price of the 19 years; the average price of cheese, what we call Dunlop cheese, is 9*s.* 4*d.* per Ayrshire stone, and the price which I last year obtained is 9*s.* a stone, so that the average is just 4*d.* above what I obtained last year.

12203. Have you ever known the prices lower than they were last year?—Yes; the price of cheese in 1834, was 1*s.* a stone lower; in 1833, it was 4*d.* higher; in 1832, it was the same; in 1831, it was 1*s.* higher; in 1830, it was the same; in 1829, it was 1*s.* lower; in 1828, it was 1*s.* higher; in 1827, it was 6*d.* lower; in 1825, it was 3*s.* a stone higher; and in 1822, about 2*s.* a stone lower, that was the lowest price I ever obtained.

12204. As the prices fluctuate backwards and forwards, do you calculate that the present prices will rise as they have done before?—I should expect so from the experience I have had.

12205. And you would suppose that other people calculate it the same way, from seeing that there are always a number of applications for any farms that become vacant?—I suppose so.

12206. Do you know any farmers that have lately made purchases of land?—Yes, I know some farmers that have farmed all their lifetime, and have ultimately made as much as to purchase small farms.

12207. To what amount have any of them laid out lately in such purchases?—I know one that purchased a farm to the amount of 6,000*l.*; and another that purchased one to the amount of 5,400*l.* or 5,500*l.*

12208. Can you state to the Committee any instances of great improvements that have been made upon land?—Yes; I have several experiments of that kind. I have an account of an experiment made by a neighbour of mine, Mr. Buchanan, Catrine Bank. Mr. Buchanan had a flow moss of 15 acres in extent, perhaps 20 feet deep of moss, which was not worth in his estimation 1*d.* an acre; he set to work, and drained it to the depth of four feet; he did not use either tiles or stones, but after he had cut the drains a certain width and depth, he then cut out a slope in the centre of the original cut, and put down the surface sod or turf, upon the shoulders which were left at the bottom of the drain, and which he found to suit the purpose very well, and he ultimately drained the whole 15 acres in that way; and now after obtaining crops of oats, turnips and all kinds of things upon that moss, he has laid it down into grass, and it is now estimated as being worth 2*l.* an acre in grass. The expense of drainage and management cost 14*l.* an acre before he reaped the first crop.

12209. *Chairman.*] Will that be converted into any other crop?—He expects now that he will be able to plough it with horses the same as the other land.

12210. Mr. *Handley.*] What was his process after draining?—Applying lime; and there is a large cotton mill in the neighbourhood; the night soil from the cotton mill was applied to the surface, and clay in some parts.

12211. Any marle?—No, we have no marle of any consequence.

12212. Mr. *Evans.*] What kind of sample of corn grows upon it?—I believe that the oats he grew upon that moss would weigh from 38 to 40 pounds a bushel.

12213. A great quantity of straw?—Yes, pretty fair.

12214. Mr. *Handley.*] What was his course of cropping?—The first crop was

oats, and then a green crop of turnips and potatoes; he raised very large quantities of potatoes upon that moss; in some instances from 60 to 80 bolls an acre, or from 18 to 24 tons.

12215. Was the ground sufficiently sound to be ploughed by horses?—No, it was all cultivated by the spade; but he expects now that it is drained and consolidated that he will be able to plough it.

12216. Are those drains standing?—They are still standing; he did not immediately complete the drainage, but allowed them to stand over during the heat of the summer, so as to peat the shoulders at the bottom of the drain.

12217. After the potatoes what was the crop?—Partly wheat, partly barley and partly oats.

12218. And then sowed it with grass?—Yes.

12219. Do you know the quantity of lime he put upon it?—I could not say; but the whole expense of the management was 14 *l.* before he got the first crop off the land.

12220. Mr. *Evans.*] Do not you consider that the clay or lime being heavier than the peat will sink?—The moss land sinks after being cultivated.

12221. Do not the moss and lime sink together, but the lime sinks deeper than the moss does?—The general way in cultivating flow mosses is to apply lime at the top of the cultivated surface, and in hill moss the lime is applied to the grass surface; it is ploughed exceedingly thin the first year, and sown with oats; and then the second year either ploughed and sown with oats and grass seeds, or allowed to lie for three or four years.

12222. Do you find the lime sink through it after having ploughed it the third or fourth year?—No, the lime still remains between the small thin furrow which was ploughed down and the original surface, and decomposes the vegetable matter, and on being ploughed, after three or four years we find that we have excellent crops.

12223. Mr. *Dunlop.*] Taking a general view of the state of agriculture in the county of Ayr, do you see anything that the Legislature can do to benefit the farmers?—No, I think the Legislature should not interfere with the farmers; and in making a general visit through the country I did not find any complaints, with the exception of two or three things; the general impression seems to be, that whatever difficulties do exist can be best remedied by the landlords.

12224. Will you state what those things were of which some complain?—A number of tenants think that much good would be done by altering the law of entails, so far as to permit the proprietors of entailed estates to rank the expenses of draining and other permanent improvements upon land as burthens upon the heirs of entail; and second, that the toll dues upon manure should be reduced. In the county of Ayr manure pays at the toll bars the same as other things; another suggestion is, that rookeries should be placed upon such a footing as not to be hurtful to the surrounding country; farmers, especially in the district of Carrick, complain of being very much annoyed by the crows; that they would rather pay double the amount of assessed taxes which they are paying at present than support the crows.

12225. *Mr. Handley.*] Upon what do they conceive the rooks to live?—That they dig up the wheat and other grain when sown.

12226. Do they not take the precaution of having a boy there to drive them away?—Of course, they employ people to herd them, but after all they complain that they destroy a great quantity of corn.

12227. Do they ever complain of slugs and worms?—Yes, they do, and I made the remark when this complaint was stated, that I thought the crows, perhaps, did more good than harm, in picking up the slugs and worms.

12228. *Mr. Evans.*] Are you annoyed with game?—In some places we are very much annoyed with game. Then there is a fourth suggestion, that the Legislature should prevent foreign corn being introduced by contraband means:—it is alleged, that foreign corn imported to British America, and then brought to Britain as Colonial produce.

12229. *Mr. Dunlop.*] You stated that great improvement had been made in the breed of cattle; can you state to what extent they have improved?—About seventy years ago the breed of cattle in Ayrshire was considered not to be better than the present breeds of Arran and Kintyre, and other parts of Argyleshire; but by means of some spirited proprietors, an improved breed of cattle was intro-

Mr. William Brown. duced into the county, which is now spread over the whole county, and has extended to other counties, called the Ayrshire breed of dairy cows.

27 April 1836.

12230. What quantity of milk will those cows give?—It varies very much, according to the pasture and the keep of the cow.

12231. Upon good pasture?—On good pasture, a good cow is supposed to give about 2000 Scotch pints in a year.

12232. In the higher parts of Ayrshire there are a great quantity of sheep?—Yes.

12233. Sheep have been paying well this year?—They have; the stock farmer is more flourishing than any other.

12234. Have the farmers in Ayrshire been sending fat sheep to England;—Not that I am aware of; it is more a breeding country than a fatting country; they fat a few bullocks upon the shore, where they have turnips, and a few sheep, but the upper part of the county is mostly for breeding black-faced sheep.

12235. *Mr. Miles.*] Do you breed a good deal in that county?—Yes; we use to have a good sale from Ayrshire to England. There has not been so much lately, but there is an expectation that it will probably revive again.

12236. Has the price improved since the steam navigation?—I could not say that we feel much direct advantage from the steam navigation; our cattle are generally bought up by the dealers and driven up over land.

12237. *Mr. Clive.*] The effect of steam navigation, hitherto, has not induced you or others to fatten cattle for the purpose of being transported at once from Ayrshire to London?—Not yet; but I believe in other parts of Scotland it has been practised, although not in Ayrshire.

12238. *Mr. Wodehouse.*] To what cause do you attribute the interruption of your trade in cattle the last year or two?—It has been alleged in our county that it arises from the failure of the turnip crop in England, and from there being a scarcity of winter provisions.

12239. *Mr. Dunlop.*] The price of cows is very high, is it not?—No; beef has risen, but the price of lean cows is low.

12240. What is the price of a good cow now?—I should think you would get a very fair cow, from eight to ten pounds,—an Ayrshire cow.

12241. *Mr. Wodehouse.*] You said the tenants, generally, were willing to allow five per cent. interest upon money laid out in draining. What is the usual rate of interest that bankers charge to landlords for sums lent out in the way of accommodation?—Generally, upon bills four per cent., and upon land security to landlords, the bankers are willing I believe at this time to lend at three and a half.

12242. Mr. *Cayley.*] At what rate do they lend to farmers?—At four per cent. upon bills, if they know that there is no risk.

12243. Do they ever charge them five?—Not that I am aware of.

12244. Do you ever transport your cattle from Ayrshire to Liverpool?—No, there is very little of that takes place, they are generally bought up by the English dealers and driven over land to Carlisle market.

12245. Mr. *Dunlop.*] The cattle that are driven from Ayrshire are almost all in a lean state?—Yes, there are very few cattle fatted, except along the coast.

12246. What do you consider to be the condition of the labourer now?—I consider that he is in a better condition now than he has been ever since I recollect.

12247. Do you know any able-bodied labourers out of employment?—Not one, who is willing to work.

12248. Is there a considerable difficulty in obtaining labourers?—Yes; there is a demand for labourers of all descriptions.

12249. *Chairman.*] Do you pay your labourers in kind or in money?—Generally in money.

12250. Mr. *Dunlop.*] What are the wages of an able-bodied labourer now in Ayrshire?—According to the worth of the labourer, from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* a day.

12251. What are the wages of farm servants living in the farmer's house?—The best ploughmen get from 7*l.* to 8*l.* for half a year, with board in the house.

12252. Is it the custom in Ayrshire for the farm servants to live in the house?—Yes.

12253. Is there any poor rate in the county?—There is no poor rate in the county with the exception of the towns of Ayr and Kilmarnock.

12254. Mr. *Evans.*] Do you employ Irish labourers?—A good many; we could not get on without them. A great many of the labourers in the county are employed in manufactures.

12255. And it would be a disadvantage to you if they were not to come from Ireland?—Of course it would; we should have to pay higher wages, and perhaps not get the work done so regularly.

12256. How do you pay for the roads in Ayrshire; have you county roads or turnpike roads?—We have both.

12257. How are the county roads repaired?—The general practice is for the proprietors to make roads for their own estates, and then to apply the composition money of each parish to the upholding of them.

12258. Each parish keeps its own roads in repair?—It does.

12259. Mr. *Miles.*] Do you do it by composition or by statute duty?—We do not do the work, but we pay the money.

12260. In what manner do you regulate the rate of wages to labourers?—The wages of labourers have not varied much for many years; they do not rise and fall with the rise and fall of the price of corn, they have been the same for many years back.

12261. Is any portion of oatmeal taken as the rate of wages?—In old times, a peck of meal used to be the day's wages of a labourer, but that is no criterion whatever now.

12262. Was that during the war?—No, long ago. The wages that we pay have been much the same as they have been a good many years back, with the exception of this year, that there is a demand for labourers and wages have got up.

12263. Mr. *Evans.*] It is money wages, not depending upon the price of commodities?—Yes.

12264. Mr. *Dunlop.*] Do the tenants and landlords in Ayrshire derive great advantage from the banking system?—Yes I consider that the banking system was the first thing which gave a stimulus to agriculture in Ayrshire.

12265. Are there a great number of branch banks established in Ayrshire in almost all the small towns?—There are a great many; I think there are twenty-one bank offices in the county of Ayr.

12266. Can you state whether those branches are obliged to pay their notes in gold, or whether they merely pay them at the head bank?—I have never been refused gold at any of those branch banks, where I asked it, but I am not aware whether or not they are compellable to pay gold at the branches, and I think not.

12267. Mr. *Evans.*] Have there been any recent failures?—There has been no failure of a bank in Ayrshire for the last 30 years.

12268. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] You say you never have been refused gold, have you ever asked it?—Yes.

12269. Frequently?—Yes, but not to any great extent; never for the purpose of incommoding the bank.

12270. You said that you thought the banking system gave the first stimulus to the improvement of agriculture in Ayrshire, do not you think that if it had not been for that stimulus the agriculture of Scotland would have remained stationary?—I could not say that it would have remained stationary, but I think it would not have gone on so rapidly as it has done.

12271. Is there a large circulation of 1 *l.* notes in Scotland?—It is all 1 *l.* notes, comparatively speaking.

12272. Can you call to mind what took place in 1825, when it was in the contemplation of the Legislature to do away 1 *l.* notes in Scotland as well as in England?—Yes, I recollect that.

12273. Do you think if they had carried that intention into effect that the injury would have been very great?—I could not say; the 1 *l.* note is always exchangeable for the sovereign, and if the sovereigns were as numerous as the 1 *l.* notes, I do not know that there could be any difference.

12274. Mr. *Cayley.*] Do you think that it takes as little labour to make a sovereign as a 1 *l.* note?—The 1 *l.* notes are easier made.

12275. Is not that the opinion of the banker?—I think it is; but it is more advantageous to the banker than to the farmer.

 12276. But

Mr. *William Brown.*
27 April 1836.

12276. But whatever gives the banker a facility to lend tends to make him lend to the farmer more easily?—The bankers in our country are quite ready to lend to any person upon a fair security.

12277. Supposing they had not the 1 *l.* notes, would they lend as easily?—I should think not.

12278. You have been making a profit the last 19 years upon your farm?—We have not been making a great profit, but we have been making great improvements.

12279. Have you been living on hope?—Keeping things just as they were, or rather improving.

12280. When you say "improving," do you refer to the prices of cattle the last year or two?—The prices of cattle last year are lower than the former year.

12281. You were understood to say that the price this year is owing to the great dearth in the turnip crop?—Yes.

12282. Taking the prices of last year, should you state that those prices would realize your expectation of a profit?—They are rather lower than we would like.

12283. Taking the condition of the Ayrshire farmers generally, should you state that upon the whole they are as rich a body of men as they were 19 years ago?—I should think there has not been so much money made in Ayrshire, still the farmers are in comfortable circumstances, and I believe their mode of living is improved.

12284. Supposing that the farmers of Ayrshire were worth 100,000 *l.* 19 years ago, how many thousand pounds do you think they have added to that 100,000 *l.* by all the labour and skill for which the Scotch farmers are so remarkable?—I could not give a direct answer to that; I should think their capitals are not diminished, they have reared their families, and they have been going on industriously and as economically as they can, in the hopes of ultimately bettering their condition.

12285. You think it has required all a Scotchman's thrift to weather the storm?—It has most undoubtedly; it has required his energy and industry, and every exertion, generally speaking, to keep moving; there are exceptions, however, and some have made money.

12286. But, generally speaking, do you think the farmers have made so much the last 19 years as they made in the 19 years before?—No; I think not.

12287. Do you think you can put your finger upon any 19 years within your recollection, or within your knowledge, when the Ayrshire farmers have made so little as the last 19 years?—My experience only reaches back for 19 years.

12288. Did you ever hear it from your father, or did he ever hear it from his father, that 19 years together were unprofitable to the farmer?—I do not recollect his talking about the unprofitableness to the farmer of any previous 19 years; but I know that my father realized, during the 26 years that he held a farm in the county, several thousand pounds; he ended his lease in 1816, I think, and I began in 1817.

12289. Supposing you had had to begin life, when you began with that farm, 19 years ago, do you think you would have been now in a very prosperous condition, if it had not been for the savings that your father made before you?—If I had not had capital to begin with of course I would not have been in such a good situation.

12290. Is not it the fact, that the farmers in old times used by their industry and their skill to scrape together money by bit and by bit, and gradually to amass a capital sufficient to go upon a larger farm?—Yes, that was often done.

12291. Do you think that any man, by his industry and by his skill, could, in the last 19 years, have done the same thing?—No; I do not think he could with the same ease, and to the same extent.

12292. Mr. *Dunlop.*] Is not it the fact that the farm that your father made his money upon, was purchased about a year ago, by a farmer who has been farming the whole of the last 19 years?—It is.

12293. What sum did he give for it?—About 5,500 *l.*

12294. Do you consider your father to have been rather a lucky man than otherwise?—Yes; I do.

12295. Mr. *Cayley.*] Do you think that that 5,500 *l.* had been scraped together during the last 19 years, or before that?—I should think partly before and partly since, because the gentleman that bought this farm is not a very old man.

12296. Did he inherit any thing from his father?—I could not say.

12297. Do you remember that when you entered your farm, prices were a good deal higher than they are now?—Wool was very high; the second year I entered this

151

this farm it was 22*s.* the Ayrshire stone, perhaps double the price it is now; but that was an extraordinary year.

12298. Was all other produce higher in 1817 and 1818?—A good deal higher.

12299. What was the price of wheat?—The price of wheat in 1817 was 3*l.* 8*s.* the quarter, and the price of oatmeal that year was 1*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.* per boll of 140 lbs.

12300. Do you remember when they fell?—They fell in 1818 5*s.* a boll of the meal, and 2*s.* 6*d.* the wheat per quarter.

12301. Did they go on falling for three or four years after that?—They went on falling till 1822, when they were at the lowest.

12302. Did it ever occur to you why the prices had fallen so much then?—I could not account for it in any other way than that the produce was increased; that the supply exceeded the demand.

12303. Do you remember that the prices rose in 1823, 1824 and 1825?—They rose in 1823, 1824 and 1825, and in 1826 we had a failure of crops from long drought, which caused a great rise.

12304. Then we must have diminished our production at that time?—Certainly our production was less, but prices of various commodities do not always bear a regular ratio to each other; sometimes the price of one thing is higher and another lower.

12305. In 1817 and 1818 can you state whether all produce did not then bear a high price?—The meal was high and the wheat was high; cheese was not much higher, only about 1*s.* 6*d.* a stone.

12306. Generally speaking, were not all agricultural products higher at that time?—They were.

12307. Generally speaking, in 1819, 1820, 1821 and 1822, were not all agricultural products lower than they had been the two or three years preceding?—They were.

12308. An abundant crop of wheat might have caused a fall in the price of wheat; but an abundant crop of wheat would not have had the effect of causing a fall in the price of other things, would it?—There was an abundant crop of all things.

12309. If all articles of agricultural produce were high in 1817 and 1818, and all articles of agricultural produce were low in 1820, 1821, and 1822, would not you think that there was something in operation, which equally affected the prices of all those things?—I consider that, generally speaking, the demand and supply regulates the market; but, there may be extraordinary causes, such as war and other things.

12310. What other things are there that affect the price, besides supply and demand?—If there be doubt or uncertainty created in any particular departments of the industry of the country, or the contrary, the farmer may be discouraged or stimulated, and thereby the prices of commodities may be affected, as well as by the variations of the seasons.

12311. Did you ever hear of such an Act as the Bank Restriction Act, in 1797?—Yes.

12312. Had that any tendency to raise the prices of produce?—One thousand seven hundred and ninety seven is beyond my experience; but I know that prices did rise enormously some years after that.

12313. Did you ever hear of the Bill, called Mr. Peel's Bill, of 1819?—Yes.

12314. Had not that the effect of diminishing the quantity of paper money?—I believe it had in England.

12315. If it diminished the quantity of paper money, would it diminish prices in proportion?—I should think not, if a sufficient quantity of sovereigns were obtained in room of the paper.

12316. Do you think that the Bank of England when it had not to answer its notes in sovereigns, would not issue more paper than it would when its paper was convertible into sovereigns?—Such would be the effect on any ordinary banking establishment, but I really am not sufficiently acquainted with the subject of the currency, as to be able to speak decidedly upon the effects it would produce on such a machine as the Bank of England, whose stability I believe is co-existent with that of the nation itself.

12317. You have not given it much attention?—I have heard a good deal about it, but I am not prepared to speak much about it.

Mr. *William Brown.*

27 April 1836.

12318. You do not know whether the Bank of England diminished its issues about 1819, or increased them?—No. I am certain that the small notes were called in, but I am not certain whether or not there might be a corresponding issue of the larger notes.

11319. Mr. *Miles.*] Satisfied with the currency of your own country, you do not look at the supposed ignorance of your neighbours?—We always have plenty of notes; we never see sovereigns, except we go to the bank and ask for them.

22320. Mr. *Cayley.*] And the bank is very seldom asked for them?—Except when people are coming up to England.

12321. The bankers of your town would be very much surprised, if people were to come and ask them for three or four hundred sovereigns?—I have no doubt of it.

12322. You have said that Ayrshire is a dairy and sheep district?—Yes, principally, and for oats.

12323. Supposing Ayrshire had had to depend for its produce upon corn alone, what would have been the condition of the Ayrshire people?—I think it would not have been so good as at present, because they have more things to depend upon: the price of cheese at present is pretty high. It has risen from 9*s.* to 12*s.* per Ayrshire stone, within the last three months.

12324. Do you remember the great pestilence of the sheep in England four or five years ago?—I have heard that there was a great deal lost by rot and otherwise.

12325. You did not experience any loss in your hill districts?—We rather experienced an increased demand.

12326. Then, notwithstanding the disadvantage to your neighbours upon the low lands, you, who lived in a hilly district experienced an advantage?—I think we did, as then the prices began to rise.

12327. What was the price of sheep in 1828, 1829 and 1830?—I have not the price of sheep here, but I have the price of wool. It fell from 1821 to 1830; then, in 1831 it began to rise, and it is still rising.

12328. What was it in 1828, and 1829?—In 1828 6*s.* 6*d.* the Ayrshire stone, and in 1829 the same.

12329. What did it rise to in 1830, 1831, 1832 and 1833?—One thousand eight hundred and thirty was the cheapest year we had; in 1830 it was only 4*s.* 7*d.*

12330. What was it in a year or two after the rot?—The next year, 1831, it was 7*s.*; in 1832, 7*s.*; in 1833, 9*s.*; in 1834, 10*s.*; in 1835, 11*s.*; and I believe this year 12*s.* or more can be got.

12331. What is the Ayrshire stone?—Twenty-four ounces to the pound, and 16 pounds to the stone.

12332. The rot would raise the price of mutton as well as of wool?—Yes; the price of sheep.

12333. If then prices had remained as they were in 1830, and if this rot had not occurred in England, your condition would not have been so good as it is now?—Of course not; I do not know that the rot in England was the cause, but I know what effect we did feel; that a rise then took place.

12334. Mr. *Dunlop.*] In what year do you say the prices were highest?—The prices of wool this year we expect will be higher than they have been since 1818; the lowest prices I obtained were in 1830.

12335. And that was the year you heard of the rot in England; therefore, if that rot was the cause, it has had the effect of making prices rise the last six years?—I do not refer it to the rot, because I am not sure whether that is the cause, but the minimum was in 1830; and it is still rising.

12336. Mr. *Cayley.*] If there were two or three years of rot, would not the natural effect of that be, that it would by degrees destroy many more sheep, and the dealers in sheep would become gradually sensible of a greater and greater loss in sheep.—Of course.

12337. Are you aware that, generally speaking, in England there was a short clip of wool last year?—I am not aware.

12338. Are you aware that the failure of the turnip crop, and the deficiency of winter food last winter, has created an expectation of a short supply of wool?—I have heard so.

12339. Then, if there is the prospect of a short supply of wool, in consequence of drought, and that is superadded to the effects of the rot, that will tend to increase the price of wool?—Of course.

12340. Supposing

153

Mr. *William Brown.*

27 April 1836.

12340. Supposing you had no grass and no stock, but that you cultivated an acre of wheat, do you think you could cultivate that acre of wheat so as to make it pay at 40*s.* a quarter, without any reference to any thing else?—No; I should think that would be too cheap; but much will depend on the quality of the land and the rent.

12341. Do you remember the time when wheat was considered the paying crop upon the farm?—Yes; I recollect the time when it was considered a very good paying crop, and that was the thing which introduced wheat into our county, because 25 or 30 years ago there was scarcely any grown with us.

12342. Then you consider that at the price of 40*s.* a quarter wheat does not pay?—I should think it must pay very poorly in general.

12343. Then you depend for your profit, not upon the wheat, but upon the stock?—We depend for our profit upon all things taken together; we do not count much upon the wheat in many districts. The culture of wheat is diminished this year about a fourth or a fifth in Ayrshire; and I think the effect of that must be to raise the prices next year.

12344. Do you think that the last four or five years there has been more wheat grown in Ayrshire then there was?—I believe, since the introduction of wheat into Ayrshire, it has gradually increased, but I think it has now began to diminish.

12345. Taking the last four years, should you say there has been an increase of the breadth of wheat sown in Ayrshire?—I should think not, upon an average; I know that this year there is a great decrease.

12346. If there had been any great increase in the growth of wheat you would have heard of it?—I believe that the wheat has increased during the last 20 years to a very great extent.

12347. In the last four or five years has it increased?—I think it has been going on increasing till the last year, but owing to the very low price people have now given up the cultivation of wheat to a great extent.

12348. You have stated that the wheat crops have been good the last three or four years?—They have.

12349. Can you speak so of the barley crops?—It is not a very great barley country; oats is the great staple grain with us; the barley we had was good.

12350. Do you grow oats upon the upland soils?—Yes.

12351. What were the crops of oats in 1833 and 1834?—They were all good; we have had good crops the last five or six years.

12352. Are your upland soils sandy or gravel or limestone?—Along the banks of the rivers they are loamy and sandy, a little removed from the rivers the soil is clayey, then further up again we have moss and subsoil of sand and clay.

12353. You have none near the limestone rock?—None near the limestone rock.

12354. You are not acquainted with any district in the neighbourhood of Ayr where they have soil upon a limestone rock?—Not extensively; we have plenty of limestone, but it is generally sufficiently below the surface.

12355. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] You have stated that there have been instances of farmers having become purchasers of farms; supposing they were not able to pay the whole of their purchase money would they have any difficulty in obtaining accommodation from their bankers, supposing they were persons of good credit?—None to a certain extent; I dare say to one-third of the purchase money, or perhaps to a half.

12356. What rate of interest do you suppose they would charge upon the sum so lent?—I dare say purchasers could obtain money upon security of that kind at the rate of three and a half per cent.

12357. *Chairman.*] How long have you pursued the system of a six or nine year course in Ayrshire?—I have always done that; my father's course was a twelve year course, viz. having only a fourth part of the land in crop, and three-fourths in grass, and taking three successive wheat crops from each break, and one of rye grass hay. The system generally has been pursued in Ayrshire for the last 50 or 60 years.

12358. You consider that by giving the land so much rest while it is in grass you can farm the land to a better profit?—We consider that the rest improves the land and is equivalent to manure.

12359. Can you state what is the average produce per acre of wheat?—The average produce of wheat upon the lands which are under wheat, may be about

Mr. *William Brown.*

27 April 1836.

four and a half quarters the Scotch acre, and the average of the oats upon a Scotch acre, may be about six quarters.

12360. How much would that be upon the English acre?—From 28 to 30 bushels; but it is only good land that is sown with wheat in Ayrshire.

12361. If you heard of land which would produce upon an average 20 bushels an acre being cropped every third year with wheat, would you consider that a bad system of farming?—I think it would reduce the land, generally speaking, although I know some rich lands in Ayrshire, which have been alternately under wheat and green crops for the last thirty years, and are still producing from 50 to 60 bushels of wheat per acre, and from 15 to 16 tons of potatoes an acre.

12362. You would not be astonished to hear of farmers being very much distressed, that followed that system?—No, I would not. There are several lands in Ayrshire that were cropped with wheat, viz., clay lands, and the farms have now become so miserably poor, that the tenants are scarcely able to gain a livelihood upon them; and we attribute that to the cultivation of wheat upon land not properly adapted to wheat crops.

12363. *Mr. Wodehouse.*] Is it a common practice for farmers upon entering upon their lease to go to a banker, and ask him to advance a sum of money upon their stock and farm?—I do not think that is a common practice. I know that bankers do accommodate farmers in that way, but I do not think it is frequently done.

12364. Is it common for them to ask him to advance money to them, to enable them to purchase stock?—Upon fair security.

12365. What do you call fair security?—Suppose two or three neighbours join together in a bill, the banker advances money to purchase stock, and if the bill is regularly retired when it becomes due, no suspicion is excited, and they go on in the regular way.

12366. Is that a system which is extensively acted upon?—It was at one time, but I believe that it has fallen into disuse. The bankers are more anxious to lend money in a fair way, not so much in the wind bill way, as it was called in Ayrshire.

12367. Will you explain what that is?—Farmers used to obtain money from bankers upon bills got up for the purpose, by one or two of them becoming joint Acceptors, and a third drawer and Endorser: there was no value given or received among the parties.

12368. Since what time has that ceased?—I think that it has been very little followed the last ten years.

12369. *Mr. Clive.*] Have there not been many lands brought into cultivation in consequence of the high prices during the war?—I have no doubt that there have.

12370. Have those lands, within your knowledge, gone out of cultivation since that period?—No; cultivation is still increasing.

12371. Do you apprehend that that cultivation pays those that cultivate it?—It has always paid me, and I should think it pays others, or else they would not go on with it.

12372. The question refers to light soils.—There is no land gone out of cultivation that I am aware of, in consequence of low prices; there may be land formerly cultivated with wheat turned to oats or grass, but I am not aware of any lands that have gone to waste.

12373. Then under the low prices it still continues to be cultivated?—There is still an increasing disposition to improve lands which are at present under cultivation, and to bring under cultivation lands which at present are waste.

12374. *Mr. Miles.*] You stated that the prices of corn were high in 1817: do you recollect what the harvest was in Scotland that year?—Very bad.

12375. Were not some of the crops not housed till Christmas in that year?—I think the corn was standing out amongst the snow, both in 1816 and 1817.

12376. Do you not conceive that in bad harvests prices must get up?—Of course.

12377. And that must be one ingredient in the rise of prices?—I think so.

12378. *Mr. Cayley.*] You say there was a deficient wheat harvest in 1816 and 1817?—A deficient harvest in every thing.

12379. Was there a deficient crop of wool?—The prices of wool in 1818 were very high; they were double the prices we have had ever since.

155

Veneris, 29° die Aprilis, 1836.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Shaw Lefevre.	Lord Viscount Howick.
Mr. Loch.	The Marquis of Chandos.
Mr. Denison.	The O'Conor Don.
Mr. Robert Clive.	Mr. Young.
Mr. W. Gordon.	Earl of Lincoln.
Mr. Cayley.	Mr. Heathcote.
Mr. Sanford.	Sir Robert Price.
Mr. Wodehouse.	

MR. SHAW LEFEVRE, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *William Bell*, called in; and further Examined.

Mr. *William Bell.*

29 April 1836.

12380. *Chairman.*] ARE you now prepared to give the Committee an account of the profits upon your farm?—Yes, I have an account of the profit and loss upon my farm.

12381. Have the goodness to deliver in that account?—

[*The Witness delivered in the same, which is as follows:*]

STATE showing the AVERAGE ANNUAL EXPENDITURE for a FARM in the county of *Berwick*, and the RETURNS and PROFIT on said Farm for Crop and Year 1835.

The farm consists of 550 acres imperial measure, of which 530 acres consist of a strong clay on a retentive subsoil, and 20 acres of meadow land. No part of the farm is adapted for growing turnips; but in order to the putting down the straw into a proper state of manure, about 12 or 15 acres of turnips are raised annually by forced cultivation. The management is according to the five course rotation of crops, that is to say, one-fifth of the farm (or 106 acres) in bare fallow and turnips; two-fifths (or 212 acres) in corn crops, and the remaining two-fifths are in grass, which is pastured with sheep and cattle, except about 15 acres of hay for the horses in spring. The above mode of management requires 13 work horses and one riding horse throughout the year, and the following servants engaged by the year, viz., one overseer, one shepherd, six ploughmen, having charge of two horses each, one boy or young man for the single horse, and taking charge of the riding horse; and one man to attend cattle in the straw-yards in winter, and to assist generally with farm work in summer. These servants are paid principally with the produce of the farm, as after mentioned.

There are also a number of occasional workers required, who are paid in money.

I.—AVERAGE ANNUAL EXPENDITURE.

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1. Public and Parochial Burdens:						
Assessed taxes (including £4. 10*l.* on a four-wheeled gig)				10	10	–
Poor rates, tenant's half				9	14	–
School salary				1	6	–
Road money				5	12	–
				27	2	–
2. Wages to Yearly Servants:						
One overseer	£.30	–	–			
One shepherd	28	–	–			
Six ploughmen at £.22 each	132	–	–			
One man to attend cattle, &c.	22	–	–			
One boy to take charge of the single horse, riding horse, &c.	13	–	–			
				225	–	–
The above servants are hired by the year, and are paid partly in grain, have a cow kept, and other allowances; the value of all which is, according to the present prices, nearly as above.						
3. Wages to occasional Labourers and Harvest Expenses:						
People employed at various work, such as thrashing and dressing corn for market, making hay, hoeing turnips, and other farm work, average annual amount	100	–	–			
Harvest expenses, including cutting down and putting the corn into sheaf, food for reapers, &c.	90	–	–			
				190	–	–

Mr. *William Bell.*

29 April 1836.

	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
4. Seeds for Sowing:		
Seed corn for 212 acres	145 – –	
Grass seeds for 106 acres	50 – –	
Turnip seed for 15 acres	1 13 9	
		196 13 9
5. Value of Corn given to Horses: Each horse consumes about 15 quarters of oats in the year, being for the 13 horses about 195 quarters, which at 22*s.* per quarter amount to		214 10 –
6. Repairs on Houses and Fences, and Insurance against Fire:		
Repairs on houses	10 10 –	
„ on fences	6 – –	
Premium of insurance	4 10 –	
		21 – –
7. Tradesmens' Accounts:		
Blacksmith's account	20 – –	
Carpenter	16 – –	
Millwright	15 – –	
Saddler	10 – –	
		61 – –
8. Incidental Outlay, such as Toll Duties, Marketing Grain, Sheep Nets, Ropes, &c. &c.		25 – –
9. Manure:		
Lime for 530 acres, at £.4 per acre, is £.2,120, which divided into 19 parts (the number of years of the lease) is equal to the annual sum of	111 11 7	
Bone dust	16 – –	
		127 11 7
10. Draining: Three hundred pounds have been expended on draining during the currency of the lease, which divided by 19 is equal to		15 15 9
11. Loss on Horses, Thrashing Mill and Implements of Husbandry: The amount of this cannot be ascertained exactly until the expiry of the lease, but cannot be less than £.40 per annum, and may perhaps considerably exceed this		40 – –
Add rent of farm paid in money		762 – –
TOTAL average annual expenditure £.		1,905 13 1

II.—STATE SHOWING THE RETURNS AND PROFIT FROM THE FARM FOR CROP AND YEAR 1835.

	£. s. d.
GRAIN:	
1. Wheat, 370 quarters, which will average 40*s.* per quarter	740 – –
2. Oats, 472 quarters, which will average 22*s.* per quarter	519 4 –
3. Barley, 75 quarters at 26*s.*	97 10 –
4. Pease, 53 quarters at 32*s.*	84 16 –
Amount of grain £.	1,441 10 –
STOCK: The sum of profit realized this year from the stock of sheep and cattle on the farm, after deducting the purchase-money, expense of feeding, &c. amounted to	892 5 –
Amount of returns	2,333 15 –
Deduct expenditure	1,905 13 1
Leaving a profit of £.	428 1 11

Christopher Comyns Parker, Esq., called in; and Examined.

C. C. Parker, Esq.

12382. *Chairman.*] WHERE do you reside?—At Woodham Mortimer, in Essex.

12383. Do you farm largely in that county?—Rather more than 2,000 acres.

12384. In what part of Essex is that?—It is what is called Dengy Hundred; the eastern part; part on the upland and part marsh.

12385. Are you acquainted with any other land in the county of Essex?—A great part of it.

12386. You have the management of some property?—I have.

12387. What

12387. What is the extent of the property of which you have the management?—Nearly or quite 20,000 acres.

12388. What is the nature of the soil on your farm?—It varies; some turnip land, other very heavy land, heavy loam and other marsh soil, alluvial soil.

12389. What do you calculate the acreable produce of wheat upon your heavy land?—It depends so much upon seasons; land in a good state of cultivation averages from 24 to 30 bushels.

12390. How often is that land cropped with wheat?—Some of our best lands are farmed on the six course husbandry, and others on the four course; the four course once in four years, and the six course twice in six years.

12391. Do you confine the six course husbandry to the heavy land?—No, six course husbandry is more to a mixed friable soil; the very heavy land, I think, ought not to be farmed with the six course.

12392. Will you describe the course of husbandry on your heavy land?—First, fallow; second year, oats or barley; then one-eighth clover and one-eighth beans, pease or tares; last year of the course, wheat.

12393. Upon that part of your farm have you gained or lost within the last three years?—Within the last three years I should think rather gained than lost.

12394. You say upon the mixed land you adopt the six course system, will you state what that course is?—Beginning with fallow, oats or barley, clover or grasses, then wheat, then pease, beans, tares or mangel wurzel; as a last crop, wheat or barley, according to the condition of the land.

12395. Have you cultivated that portion of your farm to a profit the last three years?—I should hope a trifling profit, but very little; the prices have been too low to afford much profit the last three years.

12396. You occupy some marsh land?—I do.

12397. Is that marsh land valuable?—Some very good, and some very bad.

12398. Is the land rented or your own property?—Some of the marsh land is my own property, and some rented.

12399. What is the rent of the marsh land?—Part of my marsh is 30*s.* an acre, and the other 28*s.*; but that at 30*s.* an acre is entirely grass, and the 28*s.* is about 60 acres out of 180 in arable.

12400. Do you consider it of advantage to a farm to have a portion of marsh land attached to it?—Decidedly; it enables you to keep stock, and of course to make more manure during the winter.

12401. What is the condition of the farmers in that part of the county of Essex with which you are so well acquainted?—The condition of the farmers in part of my neighbourhood has been very bad.

12402. Has it improved lately?—Since rents have been lowered not only the new but the old tenants having capital have decidedly improved the condition of their farms.

12403. Has there been any change of tenantry in that district?—A very great change.

12404. The old tenantry were men without capital and have left their farms?—Some without capital, and others young men, and imprudent.

12405. How long is it since the rents have been reduced?—Beginning, I think, in 1823, or rather before that time.

12406. Can you state what was the amount of the reduction at that time?—I cannot exactly state the amount; but beginning with 10 and 15 per cent. and many 20 to 30 per cent., and some 50 per cent., and even more than that within the last three or four years.

12407. Do you consider that the distressed state of those farmers can be at all attributed to the rents not having been lowered sufficiently in time?—I should say very materially, the landlords not prudently lowering their rents earlier than they have done.

12408. Do you think the total reduction of rent would have been less if the rents had been lowered sooner?—I know farms that men of capital were occupying that were 25*s.* and 30*s.* an acre, and they offered a pound, and they have since been let for 12*s.* to 14*s.* and 15*s.* an acre, and I believe that had they been reduced to 1*l.* at that time, those tenants would now have been in possession of them, and they would never have been impoverished in their cultivation.

12409. And the farms would have been in a better condition?—Yes; it has been by persisting in the high rents that the farms have been worked out of condition, and then no person would take them except at a very low rent.

C. C. *Parker*, Esq.

29 April 1836.

12410. Where farms have been re-let to new tenants have those tenants gone on in improvements in draining, and so on?—I have never seen more improvement in draining, liming and chalking than within the last three years.

12411. Are those improvements permanent improvements?—Permanent improvements, such as under-draining and chalking and liming.

12412. Then where the tenants are farming with capital, you consider that they are in a better condition than they were?—I should rather say that they are farming in hopes of being in a better condition.

12413. Are the poor rates heavy in your part of Essex?—Not very.

12414. Has the Poor Law Amendment Bill come into operation there?—It has, and very beneficially.

12415. Has there been a considerable reduction of the rates in consequence?—We have not yet been long enough at work to create a considerable reduction of rates by the effect of the new Poor Law Bill, but the poor rates have been decreasing by the better management of the farmers the last three or four years.

12416. What has been the effect upon the character of the labourers of the introduction of this new system of poor laws?—I can hardly give a decided opinion upon that point, it has been so short a time in operation; but an increased attention to oblige their masters is now visible.

12417. Is the condition of the labourers in that part of Essex good or bad?—I think good, being able generally to find employment at fair wages.

12418. Are there many persons out of employment?—I am not aware of any out of employment now.

12419. You have no railroad at present constructing in that part?—We have no extra demand for labour to take our hands; they are nearly all employed in agricultural labour.

12420. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] What rate of wages are they now receiving?—The rates of wages are now about 10*s.* and half a guinea a week; they were during the winter 9*s.* and 10*s.*, but where men take their work they are now earning I think 12*s.* or 13*s.* a week.

12421. Do not you think that that rate of wages is higher than is justified by the price of corn?—No doubt higher than is justified by the present price of corn, but occasioned by not having more labourers than we really want.

12422. *Chairman.*] Do you know any farms out of occupation now, or that have been out of occupation lately?—I know of farms to be let, but still they are cultivated by the landlord.

12423. Is there a difficulty in finding good tenants where farms are to be let?—For heavy land there is a difficulty in finding a tenant with capital; no difficulty as regards turnip land farms.

12424. Are not the farms in the occupation of the landlords farms which have been exhausted by bad management or by want of capital on the part of the tenant?—There have been a great many farms in that district that have been in the hands of the landlords being entirely exhausted by the former tenant, and not being able to procure tenants for them except at such an abatement as they did not appear willing to accede to at the time; I am not aware of any one now unoccupied.

12425. For the last three years has there been a greater produce of wheat in that part of Essex with which you are acquainted than on the average of former years?—The last four years have been more productive than any four years I ever remember; 1832 was a very productive year, and 1833, 1834 and 1835 have been nearly as productive as regards the wheat crop.

12426. Has that any thing to do with the low price of wheat?—I always consider that supply and demand are what create alteration in prices, and the supply has been much beyond the demand.

12427. Have not the seasons been equally favourable to the crops of barley and oats?—Certainly not; dry seasons are particularly favourable to heavy land districts for wheat; the lighter lands have been burnt, and where the heavier lands were not in good condition they have produced very light crops.

12428. Has there been a diminished breadth of wheat sown this year?—In our district not much alteration; I should think if anything rather less. Farmers would be rather inclined to sow land with barley after tares, beans or pease, that they would otherwise have sown with wheat on account of the low price; but I do not think there is much alteration.

12429. Has

159

12429. Has the cost of production been less the last few years than it used to be?—Less than it used to be.

12430. Are the tradesmens' bills less, the wheelright's bills, and the collar-maker's bills and the carpenter's?—Not in the proportion they ought to be, compared with the prices of various articles that they purchase, such as timber, iron, and likewise their provisions; journeyman's wages are rather reduced, but not in proportion to day labourers.

12431. Do the farmers in your neighbourhood plough with four horses or with two?—They plough with two or three, according to the quality of the land, very rarely with four, now and then they use four horses, not often.

12432. Is the corn thrashed by machinery or by manual labour?—Some use machinery, but not so much as they did a few years back.

12433. Has the draining and chalking been done by the landlords or by the tenants generally?—In those farms that are out of cultivation a portion has been done by the landlords, and in some instances landlords have allowed for chalking and draining, rather than make a permanent abatement of rent.

12434. Can you suggest any measure of relief to the farmers, which it is in the power of the Legislature to afford them?—I am not aware of any legislative interference that could benefit the farmer, unless they can lower the expenses upon a farm, and by not interfering or tampering with the corn laws, give confidence.

12435. Then it is your opinion that the farmer has more to expect from his landlord, and from having a confidence in the steadiness of prices, than he has from any interference of the Legislature?—I think that the tenant must look to the contract between himself and his landlord, with a confidence in the corn laws; without that confidence, there is no speculation with those who are purchasers of corn, nor can farmers hold with any safety.

12436. When you speak of confidence in the corn laws, do you mean confidence in having protection against foreign competition, or confidence in the present system of Corn Laws?—Confidence in having a sufficient protection against foreign competition. I consider the present corn laws as good as they can be for the English farmer; they prevent our having a supply when we do not want it, and when we do want it we do not object to other persons having corn at a moderate price.

12437. Do not you think that they hold out hopes of a continuance of a higher rate of price than can ever be realized?—The corn laws have been in operation but a few years, they commenced with large foreign supplies; we have been only put on our own growth the last four years, and I do not consider that our own growth is upon an average likely to exceed much the supply, and therefore I do not think if the present laws continue that we should be often interfered with by foreign supply.

12438. In those years in which we were dependent upon foreign supply, do not you consider that a greater quantity of corn was introduced for home consumption, in consequence of the low rate of duty, than was necessary?—I consider the very low price of corn to have been occasioned by the full supply during the deficient years, by which the granaries were all filled, which, with the good crops of wheat for the last four years, have caused the supply to exceed the demand.

12439. Do not these corn laws hold out a temptation to the merchant to throw in large supplies when he has an opportunity of doing so at a mere nominal duty?—Had the duty been higher at the starting price than it is at a shilling, it certainly would be a better protection.

12440. Do you think it would be possible to afford an equal protection to the farmers by a fixed duty?—I think there is no fixed duty, but such as the country would not be satisfied with, that could protect the English grower.

12441. Mr. *Cayley*.] What protection do you want, how many shillings per quarter upon an average?—I think, if there was 20*s*. a quarter upon foreign corn, you would have all they could spare sent to the English market.

12442. That would not be a sufficient protection to the English grower?—I think the present corn law is better.

12443. What is the price that you would wish to preserve in the English market for wheat?—Not exceeding an average of 60*s*.

12444. Do you think we are likely to obtain that upon a succession of years?—No.

C. C. Parker, Esq.

29 April 1836.

12445. What do you expect?—I did expect that the average would be between 56*s.* and 60*s.*; but my hopes are now disappointed.

12446. At what period did you expect that?—At the time when the present Bill passed.

12447. In 1828?—Yes.

12448. You have seen reason to be disappointed in your expectation?—I yet have hopes that that expectation will be realized, if the corn laws are not altered.

12449. You have stated that the farmers of your district have not been making a profit, so much as that they are living in hopes of a profit; how long have they been living in hopes of a profit?—The last three or four years, that they have had good crops; the four preceding years, on heavy land districts, I believe that the whole of their rent was paid from capital.

12450. Then, when you compare the condition of the farmer the last three years, is the comparison made with what the farmers condition used to be, or is it compared with the condition of the farmer during the three or four wet seasons immediately preceding the last three or four seasons?—Those four years very much reduced the capital, and caused a change of tenancy; those that have taken the farms since, have taken, I presume, with the hope of better prices, and with the certainty of a reduced expenditure.

12451. You say rents began to be reduced about 1822, have they been going on reducing ever since that time?—At various periods when leases have expired, the new takes have not been at the original high rent.

12452. There has been a gradual fall in the prices of agricultural produce since that time?—There have been various rises and falls in the prices of agricultural produce.

12453. There has been a descending scale of prices?—There has, at different periods.

12454. You were understood to say, that the only reason for a difference in prices you considered to be a difference in the supply and demand; has the supply been increasing, in your opinion, since that time, so as to produce that fall?—Certainly, the last four years.

12455. Ever since 1822?—No, since 1822 there have been some good years and some bad years; but when we have had bad years of our own growth, we have had large foreign supplies.

12456. Previous to 1822 a higher scale of prices prevailed generally?—There were years I think before that, when the prices were low.

12457. Not immediately before 1822, but for twenty or twenty-five years before 1822, was there not a higher scale of prices?—In 1821 I see was the first considerable reduction in price.

12458. Had the prices been constantly higher for twenty years preceding that time?—Considerably higher.

12459. Then there was a less supply during those twenty years?—I will not venture to give an opinion upon that, but there was a different description of demand.

12460. Mr. *Loch.*] What was that different description of demand?—The demand during the war was much increased for the supply of our military and naval forces, when purchases, being made at the London market, or any other great markets, an extra price was given to bring it to those markets. When the consumption is spread more over the country, I consider that that causes a gradual fall.

12461. Mr. *Cayley.*] You attribute the higher prices from 1800 to 1814 to the state of the war?—Very much.

12462. Do you attribute it entirely to the state of the war?—The state of the war and likewise some years of deficient crops, and I think then the protection of the corn laws was much higher.

12463. Before 1815 you think there was a higher protection?—I think there was.

12464. Did you ever hear of the paper currency?—Of course I have heard of the paper currency.

12465. Did you think that tended to raise the price of agricultural produce?—I have no doubt it did.

12466. Did you ever hear of an alteration that took place in the currency in 1819?—Yes.

12467. Do you think that caused a corresponding fall in agricultural produce?—No doubt.

12468. Then there are other things besides the supply and demand which may cause a rise and fall in prices?—If persons have a facility of borrowing money, without real capital of their own, they will be more inclined to speculate and be hazardous in their dealings, than men who have capital of their own.

12469. If there is more of the circulating medium afloat in the country, will it not tend to produce a rise in prices?—I do not think it would if that circulating medium was of a sound currency.

12470. You are understood to say, that when prices began to fall, the first great fall was in 1820. How did it happen that the first great fall did not happen immediately after the war?—I am not able to give an opinion upon that from memory.

12471. The year 1821 followed very closely upon the year 1819, when Mr. Peel's currency bill passed?—Of course it did.

12472. What should you say as to the condition of the farmers now and in 1821, or the period immediately after the passing of Mr. Peel's bill?—I think the accounts of the farmers would bear a more satisfactory inspection now than they would have done in 1821.

12473. Take the whole of the farmers in the county of Essex, do you think they are possessed of as much capital now as they were in 1821?—Certainly not.

12474. Then they have been labouring now for 15 years, and have expended a great deal of industry and skill and capital, with no return at all, as a body?—They have been parting with their capital a great many of them to their landlords, and to other persons, whose charges upon them were excessively high.

12475. Before 1819, and as far back as you can remember, were the landlords so very hard hearted a body as to rob their tenants of their capital?—I would not use the expression of hard-hearted; but that they had not a correct knowledge of the value of their property, and they did not seem to understand, that if every article that the farmer produced sold for less money, that of course the farm yielded a less rent.

12476. How many years have you been a farmer?—Forty.

12477. In your early days was farming an uncertain trade?—It has been uncertain during the 40 years I have been in it.

12478. You say that the burthens and expenses of the land have not been much diminished, in proportion to the fall of prices?—Certainly not.

12479. Can you contemplate any legislative act which shall reduce the burthens upon land?—More equally dividing some of those burthens between persons possessed of other property besides that of land.

12480. What sort of burthens do you mean?—Such as highway rate, county and other rates, and taxes.

12481. Has not the statute labour been taken off last year?—It is taken off, but though it is taken off in one shape, it is put on in another. I do not see much alteration in that respect to benefit the farmer.

12482. Do they pay a higher rate of composition?—I think there is as little variation as possible.

12483. The roads must be mended in some way?—Yes; and they will be mended in agricultural districts from the same persons that mended them before, only on a different system; it will ease the small occupier merely as regards the statute duty; a small occupier had to perform his six day's duty, if he kept but one or two horses, he will only have to pay his rate for whatever his occupation may be.

12484. In fact it is a money payment now?—It is, but the work will fall upon those who have their teams; they probably will have to perform it.

12485. The surveyor gives the option to the small occupier of doing the work for a certain sum of money?—No option, I believe.

12486. *Chairman.*] Is not the highway rate now borne by the different occupiers of land in the parish in precisely the same proportion that the poor rate is?—It is, and so it was before, except as regards the statute duty; the statute duty took six days from the farmer for every 50*l.*, but a person keeping one or two horses might be called upon to perform six days' duty, although his occupation might not have been more than from 10*l.* to 15*l.* or 20*l.*; now the person will only have to pay a rate of 3*d.*, 6*d.* or 1*s.* in the pound.

12487. Mr. *Cayley.*] What do you estimate your highway rate at in the

C. C. Parker, Esq.

29 April 1836.

pound?—In my district it is very various; in some parishes they have to fetch the gravel six and seven miles; I have known it half-a-crown an acre, while in other parishes it has not been sixpence.

12488. Mr. *Loch.*] You said that you would wish the highway rate equalized between the agricultural and the general interests, in what mode would you proceed in doing that?—The highway rate cannot be much altered, it now equally assesses all property.

12489. Would you apply the highway rate to the turnpike roads in the way that it is now?—Certainly not; upon all turnpike roads both the highway duty and maintaining bridges should be thrown upon the trustees of the turnpikes.

12490. Lord *Howick.*] You said the highway rate varies from sixpence in some parishes to half-a-crown in others, what is it in your own parish?—Where I reside the composition was generally about sixpence in the pound doing about one-third of our statute duty.

12491. Then practically a relief even from the whole of that would make comparatively a very slight alteration?—Very small, not 1*s.* an acre.

12492. Mr. *Heathcote.*] Has the sum which is allowed under this new Highway Act to parties to do cartage upon the roads been found always satisfactory, or has it given rise to any disputes?—I am not aware of any disputes occasioned by it, because, if the parishioners do not agree to divide the duty among themselves, they then do it at hire, and under that course the person that does it is supposed to be merely remunerated for the expense of the work.

12493. Where they have been obliged to have recourse to such a mode of going to higlers to do the work, has it not given great dissatisfaction to the parties who formerly did the duty?—If the surveyor employed that description of person to prevent the farmers using their teams, I should think it would give dissatisfaction, but I hope no surveyor would do that.

12494. Is there any difficulty found in getting gentlemen in the parishes to act as surveyors of highways?—A few large parishes have paid surveyors.

12495. Is their system in that part of the country of several parishes clubbing together to employ one surveyor?—No.

12496. Mr. *Sanford.*] Do you conceive that the present system has been more beneficial to the parishes than the old system of statute labour?—I think it will fall more equally upon those that pay the burthen.

12497. Do not you think under the old system there was a great waste of labour?—There ought not to have been.

12498. Was there in your experience a great waste in the employment of statute labour?—I think not.

12499. Mr. *Heathcote.*] Under this new system must not the having to go to the magistrate every eight or ten times a year with the books be found more burthensome than the old system?—It will of course be more trouble to the person to give his attendance upon the magistrate.

12500. *Chairman.*] Have you incorporated any number of parishes in a district?—We have not.

12501. Mr. *Cayley.*] Will you state any other burthens which you think might be more equalized by being thrown over other descriptions of property?—The county rate for prosecutions.

12502. Has not that been done to one-half the extent of the prosecutions?—A portion of it has.

12503-4. What is the county rate per acre?—I should think it very rarely comes to 4*d.* an acre.

12505. Then the removal of the county rate alone would not make you very prosperous?—No.

12506. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] Do you think it would come to 4*d.* an acre?—I think not; I think very frequently not 3*d.* an acre.

12507. Mr. *Cayley.*] Will you state any other expenses that you think might be more equalized?—From the new Poor Law we anticipate great relief.

12508. Do you anticipate that relief from the increased ability on the part of the farmers to employ the labourer?—No; but that he will have the labour for the money he pays instead of having to pay rate, and the men living in idleness.

12509. You stated that you conceive the wages of labour have been paid out of the farmer's capital for some time back, generally speaking?—I would not confine it to the wages of labour; a farmer's is a blended account, and I might as well

put

put it to rent as to labour. I mean, that the profits upon a farm have not been equal to the expenses.

12510. If the late prices of wheat were to be sustained, that is, if wheat was to continue at 40*s.* a quarter, do you think that any farmer would be very much relieved in consequence of the Poor Law Amendment Act?—I think if the price of wheat was to continue at 40*s.* a quarter, and we were only to have average crops, that land would yield no rent at all.

12511. Land of what quality?—Scarcely any land would yield a rent with wheat at 40*s.* a quarter.

12512. Not the fine land that you yourself occupy?—I occupy some land as bad as any, and some very good.

12513. But some of the heavy loam is very productive?—The heavy loam that is productive is very expensive in cultivation.

12514. Will you state any other burthens that you think might be equalized?—I am not aware of any particular burthen other than the expenses of mechanics, such as carpenters, wheelwrights, blacksmiths and bricklayers.

12515. You remember the times before the war, do not you?—Yes, a very short time.

12516. Were not all those expenses much lighter then?—Considerably.

12517. And the prices of produce were about as high as they are now?—In referring to my own books of 1797, the prices of corn were higher then than they are at the present time, and the prices of labour and mechanics lower.

12518. Therefore the expenses being lower and the prices higher, the farmers were then in a much more comfortable state?—Of course.

12519. Would you say that the great difficulty that the farmer has to contend with is the increased expenditure of his farm compared with the fall of prices?—The increased expenditure, including rent and tithes, compared with the fall of prices.

12520. Do you think that the rent now is as high as it was in 1797, taking into consideration all the improvements that have been made on the land?—I think rents are higher now generally than they were in 1797 and 1798.

12521. Taking into consideration the improvement upon the land, do you think the rent of land is at this day higher compared with the price of produce than it was in 1797?—The improvements on land are in part put on and taken off in succeeding years by cultivation; what are called permament improvements are better buildings and more conveniences of occupation, the lands being intersected by good roads.

12522. Is not draining a permanent improvement?—Not always; draining is an improvement that lasts us generally for eight, ten or twelve years; and when land is drained, if neglected it is in a worse state than before it was drained and therefore requires a renewed expenditure.

12523. Is not a turnip system a permanent improvement in husbandry?—That and many other new systems are great improvements in the mode of cultivation.

12524. There is greater skill in husbandry?—There is certainly better knowledge of how to produce good crops than in 1797.

12525. There is a greater facility in developing the riches of the soil?—If knowledge is facility there is.

12526. Taking into consideration all those advantages of which the landlord ought to reap his share, the greater skill in husbandry, and the greater quantity of capital invested in the soil, do you think that the present rents are higher in proportion to the prices now than they were in 1797?—Rents in Essex are very variable indeed; there are many estates that the rents are not higher in proportion to those improvements. Where landlords have met the times in what I should consider an equitable way, the rents are not higher than they were in 1797 and 1798, and there I hear little or no complaints from the tenants; but there are many cases where the rents are much higher in proportion, and the tenants are in a state of increasing poverty.

12527. Have you ever made a calculation upon any farm under the circumstances that have been described, taking the capital which has been laid out in the farm since 1797, taking all the expenses and all the capital laid out, and then calculating a per centage at four or five per cent, and have you ever seen in such an instance that the rate of interest yielded by the rent now received has exceeded four or five per cent.?—I have calculated that on many farms where the farmhouse, the homestead and the other buildings are very good, that if the proprietors had

C. C. Parker, Esq.

29 April 1836.

had the interest that persons building houses generally expect to have they would not have one farthing rent for their land.

12528. Supposing the price of wheat was to remain at 40*s.* a quarter, although you have stated that in many instances 40 and 50 per cent have already been reduced of the rent, how much more of the rent would have to be reduced?—Where rents have been reduced 40 and 50 per cent, there a further depreciation is not asked.

12529. But if the price of wheat was to remain at 40*s.* a quarter, how much more rent would have to be reduced then?—I really do not feel competent to answer that question, because I consider the price of wheat to regulate other things.

12530. Taking an acre of wheat as one particular article of agricultural produce, will you state how much profit the cultivation of an acre of wheat would leave, at 40*s.* a quarter?—That I would answer, by stating, that I think it is an unfair method to take the expenses upon the cultivation of any one crop; whether you begin with wheat after your fallow, or whether you take any other crop after your fallow, the expenses of that fallow are to be extended over the whole course of your cropping, whether it is four, or five, or six course cropping, and I never could make a satisfactory calculation as to any one crop.

12531. In going through a four or five shift system of husbandry, there are certain losses to sustain in some of the years, which losses are counterbalanced by the profit upon the crops in others. Used it not to be considered that wheat was one of the most paying crops in the course?—Wheat was a crop that was considered to afford a higher price per acre than any other crop.

12532. Did it not afford the greatest amount of profit in ordinary times?—There I must go back to my answer just now, that I must take the profit upon the whole growth of the farm.

12533. Taking the last five years' expenses, and the last five years' prices, and laying a proper amount of expenses upon an acre of wheat, do you think that the acre of wheat has paid its own expenses, supposing them to be average seasons?—I should say not.

12534. Mr. *Loch.*] Must you not in making the calculation of the profit and loss upon a farm, look at the result of all the crops and the prices of the stock, and not at the result of any one portion of it?—I again state, that I never could make a satisfactory conclusion upon any one crop, or by dissecting my farm, because the stock yields the manure, which manure, when put upon the land, takes some few years to expend itself, and a different season will make the exhaustion from that manure more than it will in another season, and, therefore, I could never satisfactorily fix any particular prices upon each crop.

12535. Mr. *Cayley.*] But supposing you were to analyze all the expenses upon each particular crop, and each crop left you minus, instead of giving you any thing in return for the capital laid out, that would be a loss upon the whole?—No doubt.

12536. You say that you think the stock is to be taken into account; is not a large proportion of your farm in grass?—Not much more in grass than I consider beneficial to the occupation of the arable.

12537. You stated that that part of your marsh land which was worth 30*s.* an acre was all grass, and that the part worth 28*s.* an acre was about two-thirds grass?—Not worth, but let at 30*s.* and 28*s.*; the stock kept upon these farms during the summer is fed upon the arable farms during the winter.

12538. You are aware that all farms have not the advantage of a part of it being marsh?—I am aware of that, but though they may have no marsh they perhaps have upland pasture.

12539. Do not you conceive that you have a larger amount of grass upon your farm than generally falls to the lot of a farmer?—I have.

12540. Cattle and sheep stock have sold better the last four or five years than corn?—Grazing in the eastern district has been very unproductive; the last two years from the very dry seasons the land has paid no rent at all.

12541. Even upon the grazing?—None.

12542. But the price of cattle now is pretty high, is it not?—The price of meat is high; but that price has been occasioned by the loss of the turnip crop, and the stock have been almost entirely fed upon what we term artificial food, either corn, or cake, or meal and hay.

12543. Then, although the price of meat has been high this spring, even that high price has not paid you for the expense you have been at in feeding your stock?—I should say that the price of meat at present and for the last two months has made our loss considerably less than we expected, but not a profit.

12544. Speaking

12544. Speaking of the period for three or four years before the last two years, the prices of sheep and cattle were higher immediately before that, were they not?—Sheep were dearer after the loss from the rot; in some of those years they were higher and in others lower.

12545. Was the rot very extensive in your district?—Not at all in our district.

12546. Was it upon your own farm?—Not at all.

12547. Were you aware of very extensive losses in other districts?—We heard of them, and were aware of it by the extra price in the purchase of lean stock.

12548. Did not this cause a rise in the price of wool?—I have understood the increased price of wool to be attributed to the loss of sheep by the rot, and I conceive it is very probable that it was one of the causes.

12549. What other causes were there?—The other cause was an active trade among the manufacturers creating a demand beyond the supply.

12550. Do you know of the existence of that active trade among the manufacturers yourself?—We knew it merely from the reports, and the anxiety with which a purchaser came into the market.

12551. If there is a great deficiency of supply, will not there be an equal disposition to demand the article of wool?—Of course, if there is a deficiency of supply the demand must be at a higher price.

12552. Do you remember what the price of wool was immediately preceding the period of the rot?—I do not, but it had gradually decreased since the peace.

12553. You do not recollect its being from 8*s.* to 10*s.* a-stone?—I think I myself sold as low as 7*d.* or 8*d.* a-pound.

12554. That was about the year 1828?—Yes.

12555. After the rot, to what price did it rise?—Short wool to 18*d.* and 21 and 22*d.*

12556. Has it very much risen the last two years?—Yes.

12557. How much?—Two pence, 3*d.* and 4*d.*

12558. Do you know whether there was a short supply of wool last year?—I am not aware that there was.

12559. With the loss in the turnip crop of last year is there an expectation of a short supply of wool next year?—Of course the wool will not be so heavy as it would have been had those sheep been well fed upon turnips, and there were a great quantity brought to market early in the winter and sold when they were nothing like fat. I am aware of farmers that sold their sheep, from the loss of their turnips, for only a few shillings more than they had given for them nearly twelve months before.

12560. Then the expectation of a short supply would tend to sustain the price of wool?—I should imagine so, unless an increased foreign supply checked that.

12561. What do the tradesmen of the market towns of your district say; do they complain of any loss of custom?—A tradesman in 1832 stated, that from the good crops we had then they had many of their arrears of two or three years standing paid, and lately I have not heard much complaint.

12562. Did they complain much before of their arrears of bad debts?—Of course.

12563. You have spoken of a great change of tenantry; were the men that were swept away from their farms men of prudent habits, and good character?—Many men of prudent habits, but I should think without sufficient capital for the farms in which they were engaged.

12564. Were the farmers of your county of old times in your early days men of great capital?—Much better capital than at present.

12565. In times before the war?—Taking them in the aggregate, I should think men of better capital before the war than previously to the depression of prices.

12566. Is that in consequence of the farmers having lost their money owing to the depression of prices?—The very high prices of corn caused many persons to take farms without any thing like sufficient capital for the management of them, hoping, that if they could survive one or two harvests the produce of their farms would give them capital.

12567. Was not the other statement of the case equally true, that men of large capital were induced to go into farming under the expectation of making a profit, and instead of that they lost their capital?—If they went into farming without a knowledge of the business, they generally lost money.

12568. Did men generally lose money by farming during the war with high prices?

C. C. Parker, Esq.

29 April 1836.

prices?—During the high prices, it must have been a most improvident man that lost money.

12569. Was your father a farmer?—No he was not; at least he only farmed fifty or sixty acres.

12570. In the early days of your farming, was not it the fact, that persons were living upon their farms that had followed their father and grandfather in succession upon the same farm?—Yes; and there are many that are upon their farms now, where landlords have met the times by reduction of rent, who have occupied the same farm from generation to generation.

12571. Did you ever hear of any period of fifteen or sixteen years, during which the same havoc was made among the tenantry?—Certainly not; but it was caused by persons having a facility of borrowing money, and being thereby encouraged to undertake a business that they were not at all acquainted with, merely because they saw the prosperity of those that were acquainted with that business.

12572. Can you state as a fact, that the greater part of those tenantry that have been swept away were persons that farmed with insufficient capital?—I think the greater part of the persons that were swept away have either been men that entered upon it with an insufficient capital, or with want of knowledge, or were living in a way that they were not justified in doing, had they been landlords with full capital instead of tenants.

12573. Do you think that none of them were farmers that had succeeded their fathers upon their farms, and who have been swept away by the fall in prices?—The men who succeeded their fathers, and who are prudent men, I now see in occupation of their farms, and I hope with prospects of doing well.

12574. Mr. *Heathcote.*] You state, that your county-rate does not amount to more than 4*d.* an acre. Have you heard that Mr. Hume and other gentlemen have a scheme by which the county-rates are to be managed by a board elected by the rate-payers, much in the same way that the poor-rates are managed?—I have heard of that, and I should not fancy that we should derive much benefit from it.

12575. If the amount of your rates is only about 4*d.* an acre, do you think it would be worth while to have a board for the management of such a trifling sum as that?—Attending the county meetings almost regularly at quarter sessions, I cannot imagine any management more economical than the present system. We have a finance committee: our present chairman is the Hon. John James Strutt; and they pay great attention to the examination of all bills, and, I think, they have got the expenses as low as possibly can be.

12576. Do you find any disinclination among gentlemen who are called upon as occupiers and owners of land to perform parochial and other offices connected with the management of county affairs, such as guardians of the poor, jurymen, and so on; do you find them complain of those burthens?—I should say very few, and those that do complain have not much anxiety either to protect their own property or that of other people.

12577. You have stated, that the amount of your county-rates would be only 4*d.* an acre; therefore, if the county-rates were taken off the land, it would not be any great relief to the whole body of land-owners. But suppose that remission was only given to the small owners in the same way as under the property-tax, do you conceive that plan would be feasible, and if so, would it be beneficial?—I think it would be so trifling, that it would be throwing the burthen upon other shoulders, and you would get no thanks from the people you took it off.

12578. Do not you find a difficulty in collecting the rates from those small owners?—Only from cottagers. The cottagers that cannot afford to pay, upon application to the magistrates, are relieved.

12579. But are there not a certain class rather above those, with whom you find great difficulties in collecting it?—The county rate is collected with the poor rate, and therefore a small owner paying his portion of county rate would not know from what fund it came. The county rate is so small that we should hardly be able to collect it, except with the poor rate. In Essex it is a very rare thing indeed that we have a two-penny county rate, except when we have been building a gaol or some other public work; sometimes a penny rate, and sometimes three-halfpenny. Of course there would be great trouble in collecting it separately, but it is always collected with the overseer's.

12580. *Chairman.*] Is not the county rate paid by a demand from the treasurer

of

of the county, upon the overseer of the poor, to pay a certain sum to the county rate?—The county magistrates, at quarter sessions, state what rate is required; it is either a halfpenny, a penny or three halfpence; and then there is an order upon the overseer of each parish to pay from the poor rates his portion of the county rate; Then it is paid by the overseer of the poor to the high constable, and the high constable brings it to the treasurer of the county.

12581. Earl of *Lincoln.*] Both the poor rate and the county rate are levied by the overseer as poor's rate?—Yes, and the payer knows but of one name, that of poor rate.

12582. *Chairman.*] It is divided between land and houses, so that the land pays a certain proportion?—Yes.

12583. Have you had a new valuation in the county of Essex lately?—We had a valuation some few years back, assessing it according to the property tax, but that is not equal, and it is in contemplation to have it revised, and made more equal.

12584. Do you think that the property in towns pays its fair proportion now to the county rate?—They do, if they paid their fair proportion of the property tax, but it is entirely governed by that.

12585. Has not there been a considerable increase of late years in the towns of Essex, since the property-tax valuation?—There has been a considerable increase since the property-tax valuation; of course those tenements have been brought into the rate; but in some districts the property-tax was given in more correctly than it was in others; and of course the burthen falls heavier where it was most correctly given in.

12586. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] Were you rightly understood to say that you thought the high prices during the war were in consequence of the higher protection by law during the war?—I think I stated that it was in consequence of the increased demand during the war, and that the prices were higher when the protecting duty was higher.

12587. Were not prices materially higher during the whole of the war than they were after 1815, which was the time when the prohibitory law was passed?—They were certainly.

12588. Do you think that a state of war has a necessary tendency to raise prices?—If a war gives similar power to England that it did then, of commanding the seas, and preventing anything being brought to England but what England thought proper to bring. I have understood that during the American war corn was lower, and therefore I consider that it must depend upon the sort of war, whether requiring immense quantities of produce to be sent into different parts of the world, where our armies were engaged; and of course wherever things are bought in large quantities, and sent to different places, and where there is obliged to be an extraordinary supply, not knowing whether it will be wanted at one place or at another, it causes an increased demand.

12589. Are you of opinion that the import of corn during the war was restrained by law?—Yes.

12590. Do you believe that if the law had been different the import would have been greater?—On referring to the averages of different years, I see that from 1806 to 1816 or 1817 the lowest yearly average was 3*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.*, in the year 1814 it was 3*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.*, and in the preceding year 5*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.* The averages of 1811, 1812 and 1813, were 5*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.*

12591. Was there not a considerable reduction in the price in 1813, as compared with the year 1812?—In 1813 it was 5*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*, and in 1812 6*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.*

12592. Looking at the general range of taxes during the interval between 1797 and the year 1815, do you think there ever was an interval of time in any country in which the range of taxation was so high?—I should think not.

12593. Do you think that there ever was an interval known in any country, in which the rise of every description of property, commercial, manufacturing and agricultural, was so rapid or extensive?—I have not read of any that ever was so.

12594. How do you account for that extraordinary rise in every species of property co-existent with such extensive taxation, can you attribute that to any particular cause?—I presume the currency would be considered as one cause, but I should not altogether ascribe it to that. I consider that the peculiar manner in which the produce was compelled to be purchased caused monopoly in contracts, and all monopolies in contracts increase prices.

12595. The *O'Conor Don.*] You stated that the farmers might be relieved by

C. C. Parker, Esq.

29 April 1836.

apportioning certain burthens over other property, also have you ever calculated the amount of relief that that would give them?—I am afraid not much; it would not much lessen his aggregate expenses upon his occupation.

12596. Can you suggest any other mode of relief to the farmer?—I know no relief that the farmer can have really beneficial to him, except rent being in proportion to the value of produce.

12597. Mr. *Loch.*] Then it is almost entirely a question between landlord and tenant?—I think more between landlord and tenant than any other mode of adjusting it to the benefit of the farmer; but of course where a country has many burthens to pay, unless we are protected from foreign corn the land would yield no rent to the landlord at all. I consider it more the landlord's concern than the tenant's, because, if the land will not yield a profit, tenants will not long be found to cultivate.

12598. Taking the circumstances of the country as they are, and the protection afforded remaining the same, do you think it is a question between landlord and tenant?—Presuming the protection of the present corn law to be continued, I consider it almost entirely a matter between landlord and tenant.

12599. The *O'Conor Don.*] With wheat at the present rate, could any rent at all be paid?—I do not consider that rent could be paid except by extraordinary crops, with wheat at the present price.

12600. Mr. *Heathcote.*] Do you not consider that extraordinary crops have tended to produce the present price?—I consider that extraordinary crops are the cause of the present price, and the general depressed state of the tenantry being compelled to bring their produce to market.

12601. Marquis of *Chandos.*] Would no reduction of taxation either local or general be of service to the farmer?—Of course every reduction of taxation that bears upon agriculture would tend to assist him.

12602. Therefore, a reduction of taxation would be of use to him?—Of course.

12603. Mr. *Sanford.*] But you conceive that the remission of the taxes which at present press upon the farmer, would not afford him that relief which is necessary under his present distress?—Not with those who still continue at high rent.

12604. Then he must look for his relief more to his landlord than to the Legislature?—Certainly.

12605. Earl of *Lincoln.*] Do you think it would be any benefit to the farmer that the duty on soap should be taken off?—Yes; I consider it would give an improved value to fat, and of course that would assist the stock farmer.

12606. In the event of its being impossible to take off the whole duty on soap, would you like to see any portion of it taken off?—I am always glad to get a little when I cannot get all.

12607. Marquis of *Chandos.*] Which would be the greatest use, a reduction in soap, or a reduction in malt?—I think a reduction in malt would more benefit the poorer classes than a reduction in soap, and would likewise be more beneficial to the farmer.

12608. Mr. *Heathcote.*] Do you consider that a reduction of the duty on newspapers would be beneficial to the farmer?—I do not consider that a reduction in the price of newspapers would be beneficial to any person but the vendor.

12609. Mr. *Loch.*] Would a reduction in the duty on soap, or a reduction in the duty on malt, in the long run, be of more use to the landlord or to the tenant?—I think the reduction in the duty on malt would be decidedly beneficial to the tenant, and to all persons employed under him, because the lower orders would then have the comfort of home-brewed beer, which they are now deprived of.—If the duty were taken off malt, I have no doubt that almost every farmer would allow his labourers beer; I am sorry to say that the great mass of them now allow them to drink water.

12610. Earl of *Lincoln.*] You said with reference to the partial reduction of the duty on soap, that you were always glad if you could not get the whole, to get a little, but does that hold good with respect to the malt tax; if it is impossible to take off the whole, would you wish to see a portion remitted?—I hope that even the reduction of a portion of it would induce the farmers to brew beer for their labourers.

12611. Mr. *Heathcote.*] Do you grow any clover seed in Essex?—Parts of Essex grow a good deal of clover seed, but our part purchase nearly all that they sow.

12612. Do you consider it would be an advantage generally to agriculture to reduce

169

reduce the present duty on foreign clover seed?—I think not; taking it as a general question, reducing the duty on clover seed would be injurious to the agricultural interest generally; to those that buy, the expense is very trifling, and the crop of clover, as seed, is very beneficial in those districts where it is grown.

12613. Then you consider that though it would be a great advantage, it would be a still greater local injury?—It would be a great local injury, and the benefit, I think, not sufficient to induce the alteration.

12614. Mr. *Loch.*] Would the reduction in the price of soap benefit that class of agriculturists that are suffering chiefly at the present moment: that is to say, is the stock farmer suffering to the same extent as the occupier of the clay lands of England?—No; I conceive it would not.

12615. Earl of *Lincoln.*] If the Chancellor of the Exchequer were enabled to remit a small portion of taxation, say 100,000*l.* or 200,000*l.* what portion of taxation would you prefer to have remitted to that amount?—I should feel inclined to take it from the malt tax.

12616. Mr. *Sanford.*] In preference to the county rate?—Certainly.

12617. Earl of *Lincoln.*] Do you think that the remission of 200,000*l.* or even of 500,000*l.* of the malt tax would be of any benefit to the farmer?—I think it would be a benefit to him, in giving him hopes that if they remitted what little they had to spare one year, they would follow the good example in the following.

12618. Mr. *Loch.*] Ought it not to lead to the contrary conclusion, that if you give it to them one year you ought to give it to another class the next?—I do not think you would find any class that wanted it more than the agricultural labourers.

12619. The *O'Conor Don.*] Would not all the vexatious enquiries on the part of the excise still continue?—I hardly know what answer to give to that, for I think there is more made of the vexatious enquiries than is really attributable to them.

12620. Earl of *Lincoln.*] Would not so partial a remission of the malt tax as that benefit only the intermediate class between the grower and the consumer?—I think that any portion of the malt tax taken off which reduced the price of malt would induce the farmer to brew beer for his labourers, and likewise would create an increased consumption of barley.

12621. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] If it were possible to protect the revenue, which perhaps might be possible under a reduced duty, are you not of opinion that the use of malt would be extremely beneficial as food for cattle?—I have no doubt it would.

12622. Do you think that generally speaking there would be any objection on the part of the farmers generally to take out a license to use malt or barley for such purposes?—I have no doubt they would be glad to do it.

12623. Were you rightly understood that you consider that the farmers' relief is principally to be derived from an adjustment between landlord and tenant?—I do.

12624. Which would you prefer, to take a farm of an average quality of soil, and receive 7*s.* a bushel for your wheat, and other grain in proportion, and pay 20*s.* an acre for that farm, or to have a farm of the same quality free of all rent and receive 5*s.* a bushel for your wheat, and the same in proportion for your other corn?—Certainly the 7*s.* a bushel.

12625. *Chairman.*] Are the tithes in your neighbourhood taken in kind or paid by composition?—I am only aware of one parish where there is any portion taken in kind; they are usually paid by composition.

12626. Can you state what proportion that composition bears to the gross value of the tithes, taking a farm of 100 acres, or any number of acres?—I should think at least 25 to 30 per cent. less than the value.

12627. What would be the cost of collecting the tithes in kind?—In our district not 20 per cent.

12628. Then the composition paid in your district is about five per cent. less than the cost of collection?—From five to ten per cent. less than the cost of collection, nearer ten than five.

12629. Have you seen the Tithe Bill now before Parliament?—I have seen extracts from it.

12630. Do you consider that a beneficial mode, or a fair mode of commuting tithe?—I consider that it would require many alterations for particular districts.

12631. Earl of *Lincoln.*] Do you think that in a legislative measure for the commutation of tithes, a voluntary or a compulsory measure is preferable?—I think that a voluntary measure should be adopted in the first instance, for five or seven

C. C. Parker, Esq.

29 April 1836.

years with a certainty that a compulsory Bill was intended to pass at the expiration of that period, without being at all aware what that compulsory Bill would be. That would cause many commutations for tithe, which would create a facility in ultimately arranging it for the whole kingdom.

12632. Do not you think a measure, such as you have suggested now, would have this additional effect; namely, of enabling the Legislature to provide for the different circumstances under which different districts are placed?—I think it would tend very much to facilitate an equitable commutation.

12633. Have you seen the voluntary commutation of Tithes Bill?—I saw Sir Robert Peel's account of it last year.

12634. Is the general outline of that Bill such as would meet your views?—Very much so.

12635. Then you would wish, if a voluntary measure were adopted, that no specific time should be mentioned at which compulsory commutation should commence?—I think it decidedly ought not to be sooner than five to seven years, otherwise you would have persons, having a life interest in their tithe property, waiting to know whether they were to make a better or a worse bargain, by taking the voluntary commutation, or taking the compulsory one.

12636. Would you prefer a limited time being specified, say five years, or any other time, or that a compulsory measure should be held *in terrorem* over those that have not adopted the voluntary measure?—I think an indefinite time would be better.

12637. *Chairman.*] Supposing a voluntary commutation was to take place, with the understanding that a compulsory commutation was to follow after five or seven years, would it not be in the power of persons holding farms to manage them so as to lessen considerably the value of the tithe at the end of the five or seven years?—I should hope there would be very few instances of that sort.

Mr. *James Fison*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *James Fison.*

12638. *Chairman.*] Where do you reside?—At Thetford, in Norfolk.

12639. What is your occupation?—I am a partner in the firm of James Fison and Sons; we are maltsters, and corn, seed and wool merchants.

12640. Are you acquainted with the state of agriculture in a considerable district of country in the neighbourhood of Thetford?—Yes. I am.

12641. To what counties does your experience extend?—Suffolk, Norfolk, and some parts of Essex and Cambridgeshire.

12642. You deal with the farmers in those districts?—Yes, for corn, seeds, and wool.

12643. Comparing the condition of the farmers at the present time with their condition in 1833, is it better or worse than it was then?—With respect to our light soils I am inclined to think that they are quite in as good a state as they were at that time, probably in some parts of the heavier country they are not in so good a state.

12644. Have the crops of wheat the last three years been greater than the average crops?—Decidedly so; I am inclined to estimate the crops of wheat of the last three years at nearly equal to four average years, taking into consideration all circumstances in connection with the crop: for instance, the great increase in the number of acres sown. 2ndly, the great increase of the produce per acre. And 3rdly, the superior quality of the grain.

12645. The superior quality would make it capable of producing a greater quantity of human food?—More flour than the average of years.

12646. You have stated that you thought the farmers on heavy land were not quite so well off, to what do you attribute that? There is a variety of causes, one of which, I think, is the low price of wheat.

12647. Has that low price of wheat been occasioned by this abundant supply?—I think it has.

12648. The demand has not been equal? The demand, though great, has not been equal to the quantity produced.

12649. What other causes have there been to depress the state of the farmers of stiff land?—High rents are another cause; it is my opinion, founded on the testimony of farmers themselves, that many of them are farming under war rents, while they are selling their corn at peace prices.

12650. Has

12650. Has there been any reduction in rent in that part of the country?—Yes, considerable reduction.

12651. How long is it since that reduction was made?—There have been various reductions probably commencing about 1816, down to the present time, but still the rents are, in numerous instances, far beyond what they were in 1792 and 1793, when the prices of corn were about what they are now.

12652. Do you consider that the rents ought to be still further reduced?—Yes, I know instances now of farms that in 1792 and 1793 were with difficulty let at 200*l.* a year, they are now making 600*l.* a year of them.

12653. Have not improvements been made upon those farms?—Yes, but not such as to warrant the advance of rent, because there has been an increase in the amount of poor rates and tithes.

12654. What is the amount of poor-rate in your neighbourhood?—It varies so much that I cannot give an answer to the question.

12655. Has there been any reduction in it lately?—Yes, in many parishes, through the operation of the new Poor Law.

12656. It has been brought into operation there?—Yes, partially; indeed the very idea of its coming into operation has operated very favourably, and produced a lowering in the rates.

12657. Has the operation of the new Poor Law had any effect upon the character of the labourers?—Decidedly; a very excellent effect.

12658. Has it improved the moral condition of the labourer, as well as his physical condition?—I have no doubt of it; I have a great deal to do with the lower orders; I have interested myself much in promoting emigration, and had very great difficulty in inducing them to stir for some time; they would not leave their parishes though there were several of them living, a man and his wife and eight children upon 10*s.* a week, but as soon as this Poor Law began to operate I had no difficulty; I and my brother have succeeded so that we have assisted upwards of 200 to remove from our neighbourhood into Yorkshire, where they are doing exceeding well.

12659. Have you had accounts of them lately?—Yes.

12660. And they are satisfied with their circumstances?—Yes, they are very thankful that we interfered for them, and assisted them.

12661. Is there a superabundance of labour remaining in that part of the country?—That is a question that I do not know how to answer satisfactorily to myself, because under the late system and the circumstances in which the farmers were placed there is still a surplus in some parishes.

12662. Is there any other cause that you can assign for the depressed state of the farmers on stiff land?—Yes, I think I should assign as another cause the very great competition that there is for farms; that is an acknowledged cause. When I have been conversing with the farmers, for instance, at the market table where I am accustomed to dine, on a Wednesday, at Bury St. Edmunds, a person sits there occasionally who is a land valuer; he was telling me a short time since, that they had a greater number of applications for farms than they had had for many years before; he said he had 16 then upon his list, very pressing applications, and he added, "What appears very curious to me is, that the majority of them are applications from persons that have small farms of 100 or 200 acres, begging me to get them larger ones."

12663. Are the stiff land farms in a worse state of cultivation than they were formerly in consequence of the high rents?—I think they are.

12664. Mr. *Loch.*] The consequence of the rents being kept up too high has been that the land has been over cropped?—Yes; when I have conversed with them this appears to be the conclusion they have come to, that they have paid their landlords what they ought to have paid to the labourers; if they had paid it to labourers, they would have had value for the money, whereas they paid it to the landlord and of course received nothing back, and they have so much less to lay out upon their farms.

12665. *Chairman.*] Has any improvement taken place in the mode of management of those farms?—There is a partial improvement in some cases, but I am inclined to think that one, and perhaps the great cause of agricultural depression, as it is called, is the want of intelligence among the bulk of the farmers; the majority of them keep few or no accounts; one, who farms upwards of 200 acres of his own, told me a few days since, that it was all bother keeping a ledger; "I know,"

Mr. *James Fison.*

29 April 1836.

"I know," said he, "when I have done well at the end of the year by the state of my banking account, and in the same way I know when I have done ill."

12666. Then you think that the want of intelligence and the want of skill has gone a great way towards producing the depressed state of the farmers?—According to my view of it, such is the state of society in this country that for a person to do well in any branch, whether in agriculture, manufacture or in commerce, there must be a combination of intelligence, practical skill, capital and industry, and if any one of those be wanting, whether it is in agriculture or in mercantile affairs, a person is almost sure now to go wrong, and I have traced a great number of cases of individual distress among farmers to that cause, one of those has been wanting.

12667. Can you suggest any remedy for the state of the farmers?—I think that almost all the legislature can do has already been done by the alteration of the poor law, which, according to my view of it, is the very best measure that ever was devised for the effectual relief of the agricultural interest; with respect to the poor law as it was formerly administered, it operated to the disadvantage of the farmer in a variety of ways, which perhaps did not appear at first sight; for instance, there is a large estate near me where there is a clause in the leases that the farmers shall employ all the poor upon the estate; they are bound to employ all the poor, whether they require them or not, as labourers; the result is, that those farmers have not been able to put into practice the best mode of doing their business, but they have been obliged to employ those labourers, and perhaps to their great disadvantage; one of those farmers said to me the other day, "If the poor law operates as I hope it will, and I am enabled to introduce machinery upon my farm, I can show that I shall save 200*l.* a year by it;" the rent of the farm is about 800*l.* a year; now the farmers could not introduce machinery to the full extent under the old poor law.

12668. During the time that wheat has been at such a low price, the price of barley has not been so low?—No; barley has borne a price more than its usual proportion to wheat.

12669. How do you account for that?—Principally from the passing of the law taking off the tax upon beer, which has been the occasion of 2,000,000 of quarters of malt more being made and consumed.

12670. There is a great quantity of barley grown in that district of country with which you are acquainted?—Yes.

12671. Barley is grown there for malting?—Yes.

12672. What have been the three crops the last three years upon good barley soil?—From three quarters to five quarters an acre.

12673. Is that above an average crop?—Five quarters is above an average crop.

12674. What do you consider an average crop of barley?—Upon light soils, I should say three quarters an acre, and four quarters upon better soils.

12675. Has the average the last three or four years been greater than the ordinary average?—Not of barley, but fully an average; may I be permitted to add, that the Beer Bill, as it is called, has benefited the farmer in raising the price of barley in a way which does not appear at first sight. It lowered the price of beer, and the result has been, that instead of the poor people drinking a larger quantity of beer they only drink the same quantity, but it is of a better quality, which consumes a great deal more malt, and to that increased consumption of malt I attribute the high price of barley. I consider that we have only just enough barley grown now in this kingdom for what is required by the maltsters and distillers.

12676. Then supposing the malt duty was reduced, you think no greater quantity of barley could be grown in this kingdom?—Yes, I think a greater quantity might be grown, because those that have grown so much wheat would probably change and grow barley upon part of the land; but I am not of opinion that that would materially benefit the agriculturists. It could only benefit the agriculturist by raising the price of wheat or of barley. It could not raise the price of barley much, because if we advanced the price of barley 4*s.* a quarter, we should immediately have an importation.

12677. You are a great corn merchant?—Yes.

12678. What is your opinion of the effect of the present corn laws upon the agricultural interest?—I am a decided enemy to the present corn laws, with respect to the occupier of the soil in particular, I think they operate very unfavourably.

12679. What

12679. What are your reasons for thinking so?—In the first place they give a complete monopoly of the market, promising, as it were, in consequence of that monopoly, high prices, which promise they cannot realize, that is very evident. Notwithstanding the agriculturists have had through the present corn laws, a monopoly of the home market, yet prices have not kept up. Then they operate again to his disadvantage, because there is always some latent hope, that though prices are low now, they will advance under the present restrictive system; and thus it is, that if the farmer goes to the landlord when he has lost money in one year, and states the case, the landlord perhaps returns him ten or fifteen per cent., but the landlord entertains a similar hope which the farmer does, that the corn laws will help him at some future time, though they do not at present, and therefore he will not make a permanent reduction in the rent, and if the next year happens to be a pretty good one, the tenant goes again, hoping for a similar reduction; the andlord turns round and says: No, you are now making better prices, and I shall not allow you this reduction of rent. I think that in that point of view the corn laws operate very unfavourably to the occupier of the soil.

12680. What system of corn laws would you substitute which would afford a protection to the farmer from the effects of foreign competition?—I should be for a fixed duty, beginning with a high duty, and going down annually a shilling a quarter, and I should be disposed to go down as low as 5*s.* a quarter on wheat ultimately.

12681. Do you think that the farmers, with a protection of 5*s.* a quarter, could grow wheat in competition with the growers of corn on the Continent?—Yes; with the increased intelligence that is going abroad, and with the impulse that will be given to agriculture in consequence of the Poor Law Bill, the shackles would be taken off the farmers, and there would be more intelligence diffused among them, so that they would ultimately be able to do that, because I do not contemplate that our prices are to go down to the prices of the Continent, but that the prices of the Continent will more nearly approximate to our prices. I will state a fact which illustrates what I have just advanced, and it is this: There are two articles of agricultural produce which are not protected by high import duties; those two articles are rape seed and wool, and both those articles are selling and have been selling at a fair price. The duty on rape seed is only 1*s.* a quarter.

12682. Do you import corn from abroad?—I have occasionally, but not lately.

12683. Can you state what is the freight now for a quarter of corn from any of the Baltic ports?—Yes, the freight is about 4*s.* a quarter.

12684. Does that include all expenses?—Freight and insurance.

12685. Supposing you had a fixed duty of 5*s.*, in fact you would only have a protection of 9*s.* against the grower of foreign corn?—No.

12686. That you think would be sufficient?—It might not be sufficient to keep our corn up to a high price; but we must look at it in a variety of points of view.

12687. At what average price would it keep corn up?—I think it would keep wheat up to 40*s.* a quarter, or more.

12688. Do you think it would be possible, with wheat at 40*s.* a quarter, for the farmers to grow wheat to any extent?—Yes, I do.

12689. Have you ever occupied land yourself?—No.

12690. What reason have you for supposing that the farmer, supposing his rent to be fixed at a proper level, could cultivate wheat at 40*s.* a quarter?—Rent I consider only the residue. It is necessary to determine what is the proper level, before that question can be answered. I know farmers, young enterprising skilful men, who say they can grow wheat at 40*s.* a quarter, and who are doing very well now, having sold a part of their crop at 40*s.* a quarter; but those are young men of skill and intelligence; and the fact is, that they make their rent, or nearly so, by stock. The great error, in my opinion, of the old race of farmers is, that they go, as it is called, to the barn-door for every thing. Now, I had an illustration of that the other day: there is a person I know very well, a shopkeeper, a man of property; there was a farmer near him who held a farm of 200 acres of land, an industrious plodding man, but he could not get a living; and he was literally obliged to give it up, from his losses. This person who lived near, a man of business, said he should like to try it, and they told him, "Well, if you give the same price that he did (which was 1*l.* an acre), you shall have it; and we shall be very glad if you will. He took it upon a lease at 1*l.* an acre, but employing double or treble the capital which the other tenant employed, he has made it answer his purpose exceedingly well; in proof of which, the agent of the estate said, that he was very

Mr. *James Fison.*

29 April 1836.

sorry he had given this person a lease of it at 20*s.*, for the farm was now so improved, that he could make 30*s.* an acre of it.

12691. In order to farm advantageously, is it necessary to devote a certain portion to grass, and the remaining portion to corn?—Permanent grass is not necessary; artificial grasses are always introduced under the four-course system, and the farmers must buy artificial food to bring upon their farms, in order to fatten the stock; and at the same time they are making a profit by fattening the stock, they are improving their farms very rapidly.

12692. Whenever farms have been managed by men of capital, who have kept a sufficient quantity of stock, do you hear of their being distressed?—I do hear, occasionally, of instances, but very few. I have known repeated instances of old tenants, that have left their farms because they could not live upon them, farming comparatively without stock, and employing very little capital. Young men have come and taken those farms, and have done exceedingly well upon them, by employing a great deal more capital, and conducting their affairs in a more intelligent and skilful manner.

12693. Mr. *Sanford.*] What do you conceive to be the effect of the present corn laws upon the consumer?—I think they have a very unfavourable effect; when I speak of the consumer, I have particular reference to the manufacturing and commercial part of the population. They operate as a very great hindrance to the extension of trade and the manufacturing and commercial interests, because, under the present system of corn laws, we can receive nothing in return from those countries which would take our manufactured goods if they could send us their corn in return. For instance, Prussia; our trade would be immense with Prussia if we could take their corn in return.

12694. Would not it be to the detriment of our home market of consumption?—I do not think it would.

12695. You have stated that you thought the prices would approximate, and that the effect would be that we should raise the price of corn on the Continent and not lower our own price in a great degree; do not you think it usually happens that the larger quantity will have an effect upon the smaller, and that the growth of corn on the Continent being much larger in proportion than the growth of corn in this country, the effect must be that we should lower our price here in consequence of the low price on the Continent, rather than raise the price on the Continent to our own price?—I am inclined to think that if the corn trade was free there would be an effect produced which is not contemplated. Corn would then become, as it were, the circulating medium of Europe, and that very circumstance would keep the price higher than at the first blush we should expect. Now, it cannot be so, on account of the operation of our corn law.

12696. Are you aware of the quantity of land that has been usually cultivated on the Continent for corn?—I am not. I have not turned my attention to it.

12697. Are you aware of the enormous extent of land that can be converted to the growth of corn supposing a market were found for it?—I am aware, so far as I have read in different publications from time to time.

12698. And the extraordinary facility with which it could be transported to this country?—I think that is not exactly understood, because from what I have read it appears to me that a great quantity of the corn would not be grown upon the sea-board, but that it would have some of it to be sent from the interior at a great expense.

12699. Are you aware of the expense of internal conveyance?—I have seen it stated that much of the corn that comes to Hamburgh comes at an expense of 5*s.*, 6*s.* and 7*s.* per quarter, and the same to Dantzic. I know that when barley was exceedingly high we imported barley which had come 400 miles down to Hamburgh.

12700. From what part of Europe do you suppose our greatest supply would come?—I have not turned my attention to it sufficiently to answer that question.

12701. Do you know the present price of wheat at Dantzic?—About 32*s.* to 33*s.* for the best wheat. In regard to the prices approximating, I do not see why there should not be the same result with respect to corn in general as there has been with respect to rape seed and wool. They are not protected, and there is an immense quantity of land on the Continent that might be appropriated to the growth of rape seed; rape seed is now bearing a good price in England, I suppose from 60*s.* to 64*s.* a quarter, which is fully as high as the average price when there was 20*s.* a quarter protecting duty upon it.

12702. Has

12702. Has the demand for rape seed been as certain as the demand for corn would be?—Yes, I decidedly think so. It is used in very large quantities indeed for making oil for the manufacturers and cake for manure.

12703. Is the growth of rape generally introduced into our system of cultivation in England?—No, I think it is not in general.

12704. Is it not of very partial growth?—Yes, it is.

12705. With reference to wool, is there a great extent of land on the Continent of that nature as to be able to produce a very large supply?—Yes.

12706. In what districts?—In Bohemia, and in Prussia, and in Saxony, millions of acres I should say.

12707. Of what description of wool is it particularly that you speak?—My observation with respect to the land in Germany applies to what is called German wool, chiefly clothing wool, but some of that is of a very superior quality for combing.

12708. Is there any considerable quantity of combing wool introduced from Germany?—Yes, fine combing wool; they select a considerable portion of it for combing.

12709. *Chairman.*] Do you import much wool from Germany? No, we have imported wool occasionally.

12710. Can you give any comparative statement of the prices of wool before the alteration of the duty, and since the alteration of the duty?—In my evidence before the Committee of the Lords in 1828, I gave in a statement.

12711. Will you have the goodness to give in a statement of the price of wool for the ten years preceding 1825, and for the ten years subsequent to 1825?—I will do so.

12712. Mr. *Sanford.*] Suppose that the effect which you anticipate, of the price of corn averaging 40*s.* in consequence of a fixed duty, were to take place, and that from the experience of practical farmers, it should appear that an average price of 40*s.* would have the effect of throwing out of cultivation a vast quantity of the wheat-growing land in England, do you think that would be a beneficial effect to the country?—That is a question that I do not feel myself competent to answer, but I should say, that with respect to the light lands, they would not be driven out of cultivation by it at all; some of the very heavy soils perhaps would be obliged to be laid down in pasture.

12713. If the evidence of practical farmers is to the contrary, should you be inclined to place your opinion in opposition to those practical men who have been engaged all their lives in the occupation of land, whereas you have only had a superficial view of it?—Perhaps it might be presumption in me to give an opinion opposed to practical men, but when I see practical men committing gross blunders, farmers in particular, I think that sometimes it happens, with respect to agriculture, that those who are not personally interested in it, can give an opinion, and a pretty correct one. Though I am not a farmer I have had many farmers consulting me about hiring their farms, and I remember one man that came at eleven o'clock at night, begging that I would give him my opinion respecting hiring his farm, at a rent of about 750*l.* a year; he had got within 50*l.* of agreeing with his landlord, whom he was to meet by appointment the next morning, and came to ask my opinion. I told him that I was no farmer, but if he would state certain facts I would give him my opinion. He stated certain facts, and I said—"Well, you ask my opinion upon it,—my opinion is, that if you take the farm at that rent you will be ruined;" and I told him my reasons for that opinion. After he had heard them, he said—"I would not take it now for 200*l.* a year less,"—and he refused to take it. That farm was let soon afterwards at 200*l.* a year less, and the person who took it has lost a great deal of money by it. I merely mention that circumstance with reference to the question of the farmers being the best judges in their own cases.

12714. What do you think is the average price which may be fairly calculated upon by the farmer under the existing corn law?—Under 50*s.* a quarter for wheat.

12715. For barley?—I think nearly 30*s.*, about 28*s.*

12716. For oats?—I do not feel competent to give an opinion.

12717. Putting out of consideration the effect which a change in the corn law would have upon the manufacturer, by producing an extraneous consumption of his manufactures, do you think that the consumer in this country has any reason to complain of a corn law, which will give an average price of 48*s.*?—Yes,

Mr. *James Fison.*

29 April 1836.

I think he has; if, at the same time, prices upon the Continent are kept down in proportion as they have been by the operation of the corn law.

12718. *Chairman.*] Although 50*s.* may be the average price of corn, corn has been considerably lower than 50*s.*, for instance, immediately before last Christmas?—Yes it has.

12719. Therefore there has been a considerable fluctuation in price under the present corn law?—Yes.

12720-1. Do not you apprehend that there always must be a fluctuation of price under the present Corn Law, unless in years of import?—That is very certain, from what we have seen of its operation; there must be great fluctuations under the present system.

12722. You were understood to say, that the effect of an alteration in the corn law would be to raise the price of corn abroad, and that would tend to raise the price of labour abroad?—Of course.

12723. And in that way the manufacturer would receive a greater benefit than by any reduction of the price of labour at home under the existing Corn Laws, which have a tendency to depress in a still greater degree the price of labour abroad?—Yes, certainly. Then there is another point of view in which the present corn law operates very unfavourably, and will operate still more unfavourably for the agriculturist in future years, and it is, in producing a very large importation of corn from our Colonies, from North America, from Africa and from Australia. If our corn is held up at any thing like a high price, I should say 50*s.* to 60*s.* per quarter, in a few years the quantity of corn from those Colonies that must come in at the low duty of 5*s.* would be immense.

12724. In the alteration of the corn law which you would propose, would you make any distinction between corn brought from the Colonies and corn from other parts?—I have not exactly thought upon that subject.

12725. What has been the price of wool the last three or four years?—It has varied so much that I cannot state it from memory.

12726. Is it not above the average price now?—Yes.

12727. To what do you attribute the high price of wool?—To the very flourishing state of the manufactures, and the great demand there is from all quarters.

12728. Do you think that the present high price of wool can in any way be attributed to the rot which took place in sheep some few years back?—I think it may have had some influence, and no doubt had in 1833 and 1834, but I am not inclined to think it has any particular influence upon the markets now.

12729. Do you think those flocks have been replaced which suffered from the rot?—Yes, I think they have.

12730. As a wool-stapler of course you make inquiries upon that subject?—Yes, we are led to make inquiries of course.

12731. And to get the most accurate information upon that subject?—Yes; I have no hesitation in saying, I am certain that with respect to our district the flocks have been replaced.

12732. Mr. *Loch.*] Are you inclined to think that the price of wool will be maintained?—Yes, I think it will.

12733. And that the price of wheat will be maintained and go up?—I do not think the price of wheat will be lower.

12734. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] What would you quote it at now?—Forty-eight shillings to 50*s.* with us.

12735. Mr. *Sanford.*] Red or white?—Red about 48*s.* and white at 50*s.*

12736. Mr. *Loch.*] Is it your opinion that there has been a greater or less quantity of wheat sown in the course of last autumn?—A smaller quantity sown, no doubt.

12737. Then that added to a light harvest would keep the price of wheat higher than it is now?—Yes; but that will not come into operation till after the harvest, except as it affects the minds of the buyers, who will be acquainted with the fact.

12738. You have already stated that since 1833 you are of opinion that the farming interest is upon the whole better than it was?—On light soils.

12739. On the light soils have the tenants been met by the landlords with a reduction of rent?—They have not needed so much reduction as they have upon the heavier soils.

12740. And upon the heavier soils the landlords have not reduced the rent as you think they ought to have done for their own interest as well as for the interest of the tenants?—I should think so, for their own interest as well as for the interest of the tenants. I think the landlords have not looked sufficiently to persons of capital;

capital; they have thought more of the present advantage of a high rent, than of the ultimate result to themselves in having persons of capital upon their estates.

12741. And having delayed making those reductions their estate is in a worse condition now than it would have been if the reductions had taken place at an earlier period?—Yes.

12742. It appears, from your evidence therefore, that it is a question very much between landlord and tenant, as to the present condition of the farming interest; that is to say, that the landlord has more in his power than can be done by the Legislature?—Decidedly; I do not see what the legislature can do, except with respect to the poor law, to benefit the agriculturist effectually. And perhaps I may be permitted to give my opinion, that the law of settlement should be entirely done away, otherwise there would be some fear of the population, that we have removed, coming back again, if there should be a revulsion.

12743. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] You have expressed a strong opinion respecting the advantages of the new Poor Law Bill, are you not of opinion that the experiment of the new measure has been attended with every possible advantage, both with respect to the means of employing the population in manufacturing labour, and also with respect to the low rate of prices of provisions?—Yes, I think the results have been more gratifying than its best friends could have anticipated.

12744. Would not the difficulty of carrying it into quiet operation have been materially increased, under a different state of things, either as to finding employment for the manufacturing population, or any rise in the price of provisions?—It would have been certainly more difficult at once to have embraced all those results, if the manufacturing interest had not been in such a prosperous state.

12745. If, in the course of two or three years, there should be an extensive interruption in the present manufacturing prosperity, attended with a rise in the price of grain, must not in that case a large proportion of the population, now employed in manufacturing industry, fall back upon their natural supporters, the agricultural interest, to maintain them in their distress?—Yes, unless there is the alteration introduced in the law of settlement to which I have adverted.

12746. You have stated that you think one great evil now is, the existence of war rents and peace prices. When you say "war rents" what price of corn do you fix in your own mind as the price upon which those rents were founded?—I meant the rents which were paid during the time of war, and when prices were consequently high, as the result of the war; but prices have fallen, and rents, in my opinion, have not had a corresponding fall, but they still hold up, nearly at the rate they were during the war.

12747. In what ratio do you suppose that rents have been reduced in the counties with which you are principally acquainted since the peace in 1815?—Not 25 per cent. upon the average. I am not alluding to heavy land, but the district immediately around me.

12748. You have stated that you are an enemy to the present corn law, and you think the establishment of a fixed duty would be preferable. Do you think that a fixed duty of any kind could be maintained under the pressure of scarcity?—I do not know that it could.

12749. Could a duty even of 5*s.* have been maintained properly under such a year as the scarcity of 1795, or the year 1816. Do you think it would have been right in the Government or the Legislature to continue even such a low rate as 5*s.* under those circumstances?—Perhaps not, but it might be maintained, perhaps, under the new system, though it could not be under the present.

12750. If any great portion of the manufacturing population is out of employment, do you think that then it would be right in the Legislature to maintain any hindrance to the import of grain to any extent whatever?—Certainly not.

12751. You have alluded to the advantages that might be derived from an increased intercourse with the kingdom of Prussia. Are you aware of the policy that was adopted by the king of Prussia in the scarcity of 1800 and 1801?—No.

12752. Do you recollect that in that year he imposed a duty upon the export of grain, which he declared should be maintained and graduated according to the prices in England?—I was not aware of that fact.

12753. You do not recollect that he stated that if prices in England continued high he would continue his duty in force, but if they were lower he would lower accordingly?—No, I am not aware of that fact.

12754. Supposing that circumstances should enable the King of Prussia, or the Emperor of Russia, or any other foreign power whatever to adopt a similar course,

Mr. *James Fison.*

29 April 1836.

does not that in fact place the population of this country at the mercy of a foreign power?—It might under the present system, but in my opinion certainly not under a different system, under a system of fixed duty, because their corn would be regularly brought, it would not be kept back as it is now and laid up in particular years, but we should have corn not only from Prussia but probably from France, and from Holland, and from other places; we should not be dependent upon any one of those powers.

12755. Must not the trade with the Baltic, for instance, be in a great degree carried on by anticipation, as it is only open during the summer months; and how can you anticipate the demand in that case?—In the first place, the purchases are making now, and have been making ever since harvest, which are to be shipped in the spring, so that though the corn cannot be shipped at the particular period, the quantity of corn is secured, and the price fixed.

12756. Are you not aware that in the evidence given before the Committee in 1833 the supply of foreign wheat was admitted by the traders in foreign corn to be far greater than their expectations led them to suppose under the altered law of 1828?—I do not recollect it; I do not know that I read the evidence of 1833.

12757. You state that you conceive that wheat might be very extensively grown if the price did not exceed 5*s.* a bushel, do you apply that to the county of Norfolk generally?—I meant it to apply generally through the kingdom, but not under the present system; there must be a great improvement in the farmers; there must be more science directed to agriculture.

12758. Looking at Mr. Coke's estate in Norfolk, could any number of his tenantry afford to give him any rent whatever with wheat at 5*s.* a bushel?—Yes, I think with a good crop they could.

12759. Do you think taking the average of years that Mr. Coke has a single tenant upon his estate that could afford to give him any rent at 5*s.* a bushel?—Yes, some rent; perhaps not the rent that is now paid.

12760. Would you say that any material portion of his estate is such that the tenant could afford to pay any rent whatever with wheat at 5*s.* a bushel?—I scarcely know how to answer the question, because I am not sufficiently acquainted with the quality of the soil to answer it; but I am looking to great improvements in agriculture, and at the advantage that will be derived from the poor laws; that advantage will enable the farmer to grow his wheat cheaper; I know one farmer whose rent is about 400*l.* a year, he told me the other day he should be benefited 100*l.* a year by the alteration of the poor law; another, whose rent is 100*l.* a year, told me that he was benefited to the amount of 25*l.* a year, and all this will enable them to grow wheat cheaper unless they give the money to the landlords.

12761. In fact the ground upon which you principally rely for relief to the farmer depends upon the successful operation of the new Poor Law?—With respect to legislative enactment certainly, and ultimately upon a change of the corn law, so far as regards the occupiers of the soil.

12762. Supposing that the rents of those counties to which you have alluded were to be reduced in the ratio of 25 per cent. from what they were at the time of the peace, would you then say that the landlord's share of the gross produce of an acre was greater than it was formerly?—I should say that 25 per cent. is not a sufficient reduction.

12763. As compared with what time?—As compared with 1815.

12764. At what rate per bushel do you suppose that the rents of the war were fixed?—I cannot give an opinion upon that.

12765. Do you think the rents were ever fixed upon a price beyond 80*s.* a quarter?—No, I should think not.

12766. Do you think that during the whole interval of time during the war, from 1792 to the conclusion of the peace, that the average of price was more than 80*s.* a quarter?—I cannot give an opinion upon it; I do not recollect.

Martis, 3° die Maii, 1836.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Shaw Lefevre.	Sir Charles Burrell.
The Marquis of Chandos.	Mr. Evans.
Mr. R. Clive.	Mr. Miles.
Mr. Cayley.	Mr. Bingham Baring.
Mr. Sanford.	Mr. Heathcote.
Mr. Loch.	Mr. Wodehouse.
Mr. Attwood.	Sir James Graham.
Mr. Clay.	The O'Conor Don.

MR. SHAW LEFEVRE, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *William Crowther,* called in; and Examined.

Mr. *W. Crowther.*

3 May 1836.

12768. *Chairman.*] WHERE do you reside?—At Somerville Aston, in the county of Gloucester, near to Evesham; that is our post town; I generally reside there.

12769. Are you a farmer?—Yes.

12770. What extent of land have you in your own occupation?—Between 2,000, and 3,000; about 2,100 acres; I have a little more than 1,000 acres at Somerville Aston; I have the whole parish of Somerville Aston, where I reside; about 400 acres in Warwickshire, and about 500 acres in Worcestershire; more than 500 indeed in Worcestershire.

12771. Those 2,100 acres are in separate farms?—The 1,000 are all in one farm; they were originally three farms; but when my neighbours failed it came into my possession. I have occupied it altogether above 20 years, I should suppose.

12772. What is the description of the soil of those farms?—That farm is all clay land, both pasture and plough land.

12773. Do you farm any light land as well?—Yes; I farm one farm at Stone, near Kidderminster, in Worcestershire, light land.

12774. Are you tenant at will?—Yes, I am tenant at will in Warwickshire and Worcestershire. I took a lease of Somerville Aston for 21 years; at the expiration of that I took it for 21 more years; there is about 12 unexpired.

12775. Marquis of *Chandos.*] How much do you rent?—About 2,000 acres; that is, the whole parish of Somerville Aston, and two other farms.

12776. Mr. *Evans.*] Are you the proprietor of any?—Not any of that; my property lies in Shropshire, and that is in small portions, not more than 200 acres lying together, and that I let; I did not wish to farm such small farms.

12777. *Chairman.*] The last three years, have you been farming your clay land to a profit or not?—I conceive to a profit, certainly.

12778.] In spite of the low price of wheat?—Yes, we have had very great crops of wheat on all the clay lands through the kingdom; and indeed so has my light land; but I presume the last three or four years have been better crops on the clay lands than I ever remember for two or three years together; that has enabled me to get on.

12779. What has been the acreable produce on your clay land?—Part is poor land, and the acreable produce may not be more than 21 bushels; then the best part (one side the parish) may be 30; one side of the parish is poor land; we have not a bit of turnip land there.

12780. Is that land drained?—Yes; we under-drain the furrows; we have but one spring in the whole parish.

12781. Has that been drained at your expense?—At my own expense; I have a lease upon it; the landlord does not agree to find anything.

12782. What is your rent upon that farm?—My rent is a fixture now, and will

Mr. *W. Crowther.*

3 May 1836.

will be till wheat gets up to 60*s.* a quarter; it is now about 25*s.* or 26*s.* a acre; when wheat gets up to 60*s.* a quarter it will then rise 200*l.* a year; when I took it it was Winchester measure, 12 years ago; and consequently, 7*s.* 4*d.* a bushel is now 7*s.* 6¾*d.* by the imperial, therefore it would be 60*s.*; as wheat gets up 1*s.* a bushel, my rent rises 200*l.* a year.

12783. How much an acre does it rise?—It is about 1,000 acres; consequently that would be 4*s.* an acre.

12784. Do you consider that a beneficial arrangement for the tenant?—It was my own proposal; Lord Somerville is a very liberal landlord; I do think it so. I think I can afford to give 200*l.* a year more for it with 1*s.* a bushel rise, because I grow 200 acres in the year of wheat; my general average is 200 acres of wheat; 1*s.* a bushel would be above that.

12785. Suppose the rise in the price of wheat was owing to a short crop?—Then I should not be so well off, certainly.

12786. What is your course of cropping?—Fallow, then either wheat or barley upon the fallow, but generally wheat, for it is not kind for barley; then half laid down with clover and half beans, clover and beans alternately; for clover will not succeed well more than once in eight years; with us, consequently, we plant half with beans and the other half with clover; then we plough up our clover for wheat, and then it comes a fallow; it is a fallow once every four years.

12787. Do you plough with two horses?—No, with five horses always, unless when we are fallowing it, and have had two or three ploughings, then it gets lighter; perhaps the Committee will be surprised we should plough with five horses, but our lands lie very high, running up on a ridge, so that the top of the land is as high as this table higher than the furrows, consequently it is almost all ploughed up hill; once ploughing down hill lowers the ridges equal to ploughing three or four times up hill, especially when fallowing, it falls back so; supposing we were casting it or ploughing it down, we should then plough with four horses, because it will go a horse's draught easier down hill than up hill; then again, we like our horses to move on easily at the plough, because if they have to exert themselves much, being a wet sub-soil, if there be any bits of couch grass, or anything of that kind, they tread it in lower than the plough goes, we cannot get it up that year, and we shall have foul land.

12788. Has the draining you have done on your farm enabled you to do with a less number of horses?—I do not know that it has; ours is a very sticky soil, consequently, when it was not drained round the furrows we could plough easier about the furrows than the tops of the land; when it is wet it will plough easier than when it is between wet and dry.

12789. What is the produce of your barley per acre?—Ours is a very bad barley soil; we do not sow much barley; it will not average more than 24¾ bushels.

12790. How are your beans?—They are a very uncertain crop; even when we have the same quantity of straw, we sometimes have no more corn than we have at other times; for instance, the last year we had a very good crop, our crop would average upwards of 30 bushels; we called that a good crop; the year before it was not 15; the year before was a complete failure of the beans; we grow beans as a preparation for wheat, but expect little profit by them.

12791. You depend, in your farm, principally on the wheat and clover?—Yes.

12792. Have you made any reduction in the price of labourers' wages lately?—We have raised them this spring; our labour has been raised since the price of wheat has been raised, and very properly; they had to buy it, and all other provision much dearer; we have raised them 1*s.* a week.

12793. What have they now?—Nine shillings a week; we gave before 8*s.*; the parish of Somerville Aston are my own people, and we have been used to them 30 years. I give them beer as well; I do not mean to say that is general.

12794. Are your poor-rates heavy?—Very light.

12795. How much do they come to?—From 1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.*, or not 1*s.* 6*d.* an acre. We have been called upon by the Union to deliver our accounts in; I think they have been reduced the last year down to 52*l.* or 53*l.*, little more than 1*s.* an acre.

12796. Is that in consequence of the Union being established?—No; the Union is not come into operation yet; we have not chosen our officers; we choose

choose our officers next Monday; I expect I shall be worse off for the Union. I do not mean to say it will be so generally; at least I think so; the whole parish being in my own occupation, I can employ them all, and we have no poor rates of any amount.

12797. Your labourers are well off?—They are.

12798. Are there many out of employment?—I employ every one in the parish, and could employ many more if I could get them; there is no such thing as a person out of employment; there has not been a person in our parish before the magistrate to complain or be complained of for 15 or 16 years.

12799. Can you give the Committee any account of the expenses of your farming for one year, or for a course of husbandry for four years?—No, not from memory, for I set every thing down.

12800. You keep an accurate account?—I do.

12801. You are confident that for the last three years you have been farming at a profit?—I am confident of that for the last two years from peculiar reasons. I went to America two years ago, and therefore I put my affairs a little straight with my children, and I have the same stock upon the farms. I must have the same horses, cows and sheep, and every thing; and I find I am considerably in pocket in money; therefore I must have got it by farming.

12802. Marquis of *Chandos.*] Who managed your farm in your absence?—I have a son, now 22 years of age; but I have a bailiff at each of my farms.

12803. Were you long absent in America?—I was away only three months; I just went to look at the country.

12804. *Chairman.*] With respect to that light land farm, have you been farming there to profit?—Most certainly; the light land farms are those which can be farmed to a profit now if anything can; I consider them as not depressed at all. I do really believe that the light land farmers have never been injured at all; I have never applied to my landlord for a reduction; I believe none of my neighbours have, nor do we want it; it is the parish of Stone, near Kidderminster, of which Mr. Peel is the rector; of our tithes, certainly, we have applied for a reduction of, and Mr. Peel very liberally granted it.

12805. Are your tithes taken in kind?—No, we rent them; Somerville Aston is tithe-free; Hillborough in Warwickshire is tithe-free; the only tithes I have to do with as renter, is in Worcestershire; those were too high, and Mr. Peel last year, on being called on, immediately said that he did not want more than it was worth, and he left it to me and one of his other tenants to fix the price.

12806. Do you wish to have your tithe commuted?—Certainly.

12807. That would be an advantage to the farmers?—Yes, and I can state the reasons; the property I have in Shropshire is titheable; on this farm the tithes are valued every year; the tithe-owner sends a person to value them, and has done for many years. The Committee must be aware that agricultural produce has been lowering; the tithe-owner has not lowered the tithe there, because my nephew, my tenant there, has farmed it remarkably well, and laid out a great deal of money upon it, and perhaps not put much more into his own pocket, and none into mine, for I have not raised the rent at all; but the tithes have been raised. I conceive, therefore, the tithe is a tax on a man's brains as well as his capital.

12808. Have you turned your attention to the best mode of commuting the tithes?—No; that I leave to the House of Commons.

12809. You have not seen the bill of this year?—No; Mr. Lygon sent me the old one down, and I wrote my opinion upon it.

12810. Mr. *Miles.*] In other parishes are they in the habit of valuing the tithes annually?—The one I speak of is the parish of Clamby, in Shropshire; I do not occupy that; I think they do at Worfield and several parishes; all the tithes there belong to that person.

12811. Is that the peculiar habit of that clergyman, or the plan generally adopted by all clergymen?—I think it is not adopted by all, but peculiar to that one. I do not know another who does it; but probably I ought to say it is not a clergyman.

12812. *Chairman.*] You are acquainted with a considerable district of country in the neighbourhood of your own farms?—I am.

12813. What is the condition of the farmers in that district?—I think there are some of my neighbours are miserably poor, but they rent under a landlord who raises his rent beyond that it is possible to pay; but where their farms are

Mr. *W. Crowther.*

3 May 1836.

at a fair and reasonable price, I think they are pretty well off. The tenants of the member for East Worcestershire, I think their leases were all out last year; there was some talk of a person going over to value, but every one took again; they have taken fresh leases, and I believe they are all quite in good circumstances, and I believe perfectly satisfied. There is a landlord, such as I have described, who owns several parishes, and who has exacted extravagantly large rents; he naturally makes his tenants poor; he perhaps does not take more than 2*s.* or 3*s.* an acre more than it is worth, but even that will deter men of capital and experience from taking the land; he is always making distresses and in hot water with his tenants.

12814. Is it your opinion that where the farmers have proper leases, they are doing well?—They are not doing so well as they have been; but I think they are getting remunerating prices now; they cannot get them such as they were formerly when wheat was higher; but mine is a peculiar case perhaps; I have only one housekeeping for 1,000 acres of land, and I have lessened the expense proportionably. I know I can make a profit; and a Mr. Lucy, a very large miller at Stratford-on-Avon, near my Hillborough farm (those farms are 12 or 13 miles apart); I have repeatedly heard him say that, strange as it may appear, within the last two years he had been less pressed for money by farmers; they had come less after the money immediately on delivery than at any time for several preceding years, and he could only account for it by their having had much larger crops; he is a much better judge of that than I am. I cannot enter into my neighbours' affairs.

12815. You think that though the price of wheat has been low, the increase in the produce has been sufficient to make up for it in some measure?—In some measure, certainly.

12816. You calculate your profits not on wheat only, but on your stock, and everything?—Yes, wool brings a great price; and mutton has got too dear; it is impossible for the manufacturers to pay for it at its present price, 9 *d.* per lb. with the wool; we are within reach of the mining district of Dudley; we can sell our sheep at 9 *d.*, that would be about 7½ *d.* or 7 *d.* naked; but I presume that must be owing in a great degree to the want of turnips last year.

12817. Mr. *Cayley.*] Was the failure of turnips very great with you?—It was generally I believe; but I did not feel it at all; I had very little of missed turnips upon my farm; but I do not grow turnips at all at Somerville Aston.

12818. Have the London butchers been down in your neighbourhood to try to buy up fat stock?—No; we used a few years ago to send some of our fat stock to London, but it now goes to Birmingham and Dudley. There used to be three or four drovers, that drove cattle to London, come through Evesham market; now there is but one, and he does not get employed; but I do not send any myself.

12819. You state that low prices in some measure have been compensated by large crops on the clay land the last two or three years; has not the price always been compensated in some measure by that circumstance?—Yes, always.

12820. Suppose your crops had been only average ones on the clay soils, do you think they would have paid for cultivating?—The clay would not have paid so well, perhaps not at all; I think not.

12821. Taking 40*s.* a quarter for wheat, do you think that an acre of arable going through the course would pay for cultivation?—Certainly not, with an average crop. I presume that always by the answers I have before given.

12822. That is, taking the course through whatever the course may be. If wheat is 40*s.* a quarter, and other grain in proportion, would that pay for the expenses of cultivation, leaving rent altogether out of the question?—I would not say that. I mean that it would not pay for cultivation, paying the rent. I should like to have any land in England at some rent, any such land as I am speaking of, with wheat at 40*s.* a quarter, for our expenses fall with the low price of corn; our labour falls. I used to give 15*s.* a week for wages, now I give but 9*s.*, and I have given but 8*s.*, and a great many persons in our neighbourhood gave but 7*s.*; then our labour is more than our rent; consequently, if our rent and labour falls half, that makes a great deal of difference.

12823. Will you make a calculation, giving the Committee the estimate, which you will be able to do, of the entire expenditure upon an acre of wheat, and

and that acre of wheat capable of producing, upon an average of years, from 20 to 22 bushels?—That is the poor side of my farm I stated.

12824. Upon that part of your farm, taking the course through, will the produce pay its expenses, with other grain in proportion to 40 *s.* a quarter for wheat?—Yes, I think about that.

12825. Leaving rent altogether out of the calculation?—I think so.

12826. Will you give in an estimate showing that?—I cannot do that, without reference to my books, with certainty; I dare say I could do it nearly. I commit everything to paper, and I never exercise my memory. I will do it as nearly as I can.

12827. Taking other crops in proportion?—The other crops are not in proportion, for we have sold our barley for nearly as much as our wheat.

12828. Taking it in the proportion of 60 *s.* for wheat and 36 *s.* for barley?—My barley brought as much as my wheat within 6 *d.* a bushel, and my beans more than my wheat.

12829. Is not the high price of beans in consequence of a failing crop?—I have no doubt of that last year.

12830. Leaving the scarcity altogether out of the question, will you state the average comparative price of all the sorts of grain you grow on the course, compared with wheat, taking 40 *s.* as the standard price, and putting into your estimate the usual comparative price of the other grains?—I ought to consider barley at about two-thirds of that price, and oats at half price; but oats have been nearly as much as wheat.

12831. Put them in the proportion they have borne for the last 20, 30, or 40 years, leaving out the circumstance of the last three or four years, which have been peculiar seasons?—This is a very great year of beans.

12832. The last year was a failure, was it not?—No, not an entire failure; my own was a good crop. I planted my beans very early.

12833. Mr. *Evans.*] What time do you call early?—In Gloucestershire we consider it early to plant them in January. I believe in this country they plant them earlier; but when I was first a farmer, we used to consider if we had finished by March that was good time.

12834. Mr. *Cayley.*] Returning to the estimate you were desired to make, will you make it, taking wheat at 40 *s.*, your land bearing 21 bushels; and barley, and beans and oats in the proportion that they used generally to bear until the last three or four years?—Yes, I will do so as nearly as I can. I would observe, we have no purchased manure with us at Somerville Aston.

12835. Mr. *Miles.*] Does the land in your part of the country not average above 21 bushels?—Yes, certainly, more; that was the poor land in our parish.

12836. Mr. *Cayley.*] How much of your parish is there of that description?—I should think half the plough land is of that kind.

12837. Have you much of that land in your district?—Not a great deal; there is some adjoining mine worse than that.

12838. Taking the arable of your district, what should you say was the produce per acre upon the average of seasons of wheat?—I so little interfere with other persons' crops, I can hardly answer that question, but more than mine.

12839. More than 21 bushels?—Mine is more than that.

12840. Should you think that the average of the district was more than 24?—Yes, I should think 26 or 27.

12841. You state that you yourself had a good crop of beans while others had a bad one; that would be a great advantage to you?—Undoubtedly.

12842. You had a good crop and a scarcity price, which was great; is that one of the reasons of your having made a profit last year?—Yes, I state how I know that there were profits; we farmers do not take stock generally, but I did before I left.

12843. You have had a good price for wool last year, have you not?—Yes.

12844. Do not you remember when wool began to rise?—No, only by my books.

12845. Do you remember that it was very low about six or seven years ago?—It was low, and I dare say it was six or seven years ago.

12846. How low?—I really have forgotten; I cannot tell without reference to my books.

Mr. W. Crowther.

3 May 1836.

12847. You have no sort of recollection of that?—I dare say I could remember by to-morrow; we sell by the tod; I think it was as low as about a guinea a tod, or 23*s.* or 24*s.* the tod of 28 lbs.

12848. What has it been since that?—I am a holder of wool, and it is worth now about 45 *s.* a tod.

12849. That you consider a very remunerating price?—Yes, I should consider 1 *s.* 6 *d.* a pound as a high price; it has always been considered among farmers that 1 *s.* a pound was a remunerating price.

12850. A tod is two stone?—Yes, it is.

12851. You consider that 14 *s.* a stone is a good price for your wool?—Yes, 1 *s.* a pound; but now we are getting much more.

12852. Why do you think it bears so much larger a price than that you consider a remunerating price?—I think the extraordinary goodness of trade; we can send carpets now, more than we can make by any means, to America.

12853. How long has this extraordinary goodness of trade continued?—I should think a twelvemonth; that is a question that can be referred to data.

12854. At present you have a general impression, or you would not have stated it, that there is generally a goodness of trade?—There is.

12855. If it had lasted more than 12 months you would have had an impression at that time that it did exist?—Yes.

12856. Do you remember when the high price of wool began?—No.

12857. Has it been lasting more than four or five years?—No.

12858. Has it been so low as 28 *s.* a tod within the last four or five years?—I think not; but when those low prices are I do not sell, I hold.

12859. Do you remember that the price rose rather suddenly after the very low price?—No, I really do not recollect that; those things are all stated in my accounts, and I do not commit them to memory.

12860. Are you yourself connected with trade?—My son is now in America, not in England at all. I am a thorough agriculturist.

12861. Do you remember a great pestilence among the sheep flocks in this country?—Yes, we had some very bad years; ours is a rotten county, the sheep rot with us; but then I have an advantage over some others, I never keep my sheep above twelve months; I farm on a system of breeding nothing.

12862. You did not lose anything?—I did not.

12863. Others did?—Yes; some of my neighbours lost pretty nearly all their sheep in the vale of Evesham.

12864. There would not be so many sheep when they were all gone?—No, certainly not.

12865. Would that tend to raise the price of them?—Certainly.

12866. Would that tend to raise the price of wool?—Yes; we expect generally to get a rot every six or seven years.

12867. Did you ever know so extensive a rot as that?—I do not think I ever did; we had it more than one year; I think we had two rotten years together, but that is a case that people who have rotten sheep would be much more competent to speak to than I am, for I had no rotten ones.

12868. You are competent to say you got a much better price after that took place?—Yes, but not immediately; I expected I should, but I did not.

12869. If there were two years' rot there would not be the same degrees of loss of stock the first year as there was after the second year?—No; but it did not rise then so soon as I expected it; and the rise in the price of mutton did not follow the rotten year so fast as I expected it.

12870. How long was it?—I expected it would the very next year, but it did not.

12871. Can you state that as a fact?—I think I can.

12872. You do not mean to say it did not rise at all?—I think it did rise a little.

12873. The gradual rise in the price of wool and mutton, as the scarcity of sheep and wool began to be perceived, you had the full advantage of; losing none of your flock, and gaining all the advantage of the high price?—Certainly I had; but mutton went lower those rotten years than it would have gone in consequence of their being rotten, they all went to market.

12874. That was during the period of the rot?—Yes.

12875. It was the necessary consequence of the rot that they should be pushed

pushed into the market at the same time?—Yes; and consequently they went lower, and the sheep did not rise so rapidly after that as I expected.

12876. After those were consumed there was a great scarcity of sheep perceived, and then the price rose?—I have never found a great scarcity of sheep; I buy all my sheep every year, and have never found a great scarcity of sheep; they are scarcer now than I have known them at all, and I had more difficulty in buying sheep than I have ever known.

12877. Do you mean lean or fat stock?—Lean stock, and fat stock is scarce too; I almost think that after a period mutton will be plentiful enough.

12878. There is a great scarcity of lean stock at present?—Yes, they are dear; and everything, I think, is scarce when it is dear.

12879. If the price of sheep rose within one or two years, from the rot, you would have presumed a scarcity from that rise of price?—Yes.

12880. Supposing that rot had not taken place, and that the low price before the rot had been maintained, would your profits have been so large?—The largest profit I ever made in sheep was the year they were so low; I bought them so very low; the next year they were sold at a high price. I go to Burford and Cheltenham fair, and the fairs of that neighbourhood, and buy 700 or 800 sheep; I think I bought 600 or 700 sheep at Burford at 23 *s.* and 24 *s.* a piece, which are now worth 33 *s.* or 34 *s.*

12881. That would not look as if the rise in price had been so very slow?—They went down peculiarly low one year; they have never been so low again.

12882. What is your clip of wool in the year?—I really do not know; it varies very much.

12883. Perhaps you can tell how many sheep you keep?—I keep at Hillborough about 300, at the Hoo, in Worcestershire, 400, and at Somerville Aston perhaps from 500 to 600; but my stock at Somerville Aston is as various as it can be.

12884. That is about 1,200 or 1,400?—Yes.

12885. How many pounds will the fleeces average a piece?—Sometimes I buy 200 or 300 Welsh sheep, that will average only two pounds, and sometimes Cotswolds, that will average six or seven pounds.

12886. You most probably know your average?—No; for it is not the same, within 30 or 40 tods, two years together.

12887. You shear 1,200 sheep generally?—I state the quantity I have now; I shall shear about that number this year; probably next year I shall not shear so many by 300 or 400.

12888. The price of wool is double what it was six or seven years ago?—It is double what it was; but I do not know how long ago.

12889. A double price on the clip of wool will bring you in a good deal of money?—Yes; but I did not sell when it was so low.

12890. That you will add to your profit, and show a profit even though you have sustained a loss upon some parts of your farm?—It would help to do it; but my wool is very small in proportion to the rest of my produce.

12891. Do you grow any barley?—It is all a barley farm at the Hoo, in Worcestershire.

12892. What is the land there?—A complete sand.

12893. Had you a great crop in 1833 and 1834?—I cannot say; but I had a very great crop the last year; the best I ever had.

12894. You cannot carry your recollection back to the year before that?—I had a good crop then; and I have had a good crop every year.

12895. Of barley?—Yes, of barley.

12896. Have the crops been generally good?—They have not been generally good. They were not good in our district last year; but mine was good; I farm my land highly.

12897. If the crops of barley in your district had not been very good for the last two or three years, that would have tended to raise the price of barley?—Yes, I dare say it would; but the price of barley rose in one year very much, in consequence of the Legislature opening the beer-shops; and if they would allow the beer to be sold as free as the sale of bread, we should want no other law; we should grow double the quantity of barley, and it would bring a good price.

12898. You would like the malt-tax off?—Yes, I should like any tax off.

12899. Could

Mr. *W. Crowther.*

3 May 1836.

12899. Could you grow double the quantity of barley?—I would grow less wheat and more barley. I should grow according as it paid me best.

12900. How have the crops of oats been?—I do not grow more than I want for my own use; but I believe they have been pretty good; but I never sell oats.

12901. The question refers not to your farm, which always seems to produce good crops, but the whole district?—I have not heard any fault found of the crops of oats.

12902. You say the price of bacon has risen; what is the reason of that?—We have had fewer pigs come over this year from Ireland.

12903. Was there a general failure of the potatoe crop?—I believe there was last year; it was in our neighbourhood.

12904. Are they the general food of pigs?—I believe they are in Ireland.

12905. Are they so fed in England?—Yes; I feed them upon potatoes myself when they are cheap.

12906. If pigs were fed on potatoes, and the potatoe-crop failed, would not that tend to raise the price?—Yes.

12907. You say that on your light lands you have not asked for reduction of rent, but have asked for reduction of tithe; what was the reason of that?—Because I farm very highly; and land that is farmed very highly, though I lay out great sums of money upon it, perhaps that may not enable me to pay more rent though I get more crops; but it raises the price of tithes amazingly; then tithe falls with the price of corn much faster than rent; that must be admitted on all hands.

12908. What have been the circumstances with regard to light soils; have you cultivated them long?—About eight years.

12909. Had they been in cultivation before?—Yes, they were cultivated by an uncle of mine previously; he put it into his advertisement, when his stock was sold, that he left the farm in consequence of the high price of tithes.

12910. Do you use bone manure?—Yes.

12911. Was it worth so much before the bone manure was used?—Yes; I am leaving off the use of bone manure there.

12912. It does not suit that soil?—Yes, it does; but that farm is within one mile of Kidderminster, and I can get dung as cheap as bones. I have got that farm as high as I want. I cannot farm that at Somerville Aston so high, for I cannot buy dung.

12913. You trust to that light soil for the growth of turnips and of food for your sheep?—Certainly.

12914. And mutton and wool having sold for higher prices than grain for the last four or five years has helped to make up for your loss on grain?—Yes; but barley has brought a high price; it was nearly as high as wheat.

12915. You state that barley was not a good crop in your district of late?—The district of my farms are full 30 miles apart; Somerville Aston is near Evesham; the Hoo is near Kidderminster.

12916. The question refers to either of your districts?—My crops of barley have been very good at the Hoo almost ever since I had it.

12917. How has it been in the district?—I think the crops of barley have not been so good generally in the district; but I look very little beyond my own farm.

12918. You never go out of your own farm?—Yes, I go a great deal out of my farm at Somerville Aston.

12919. How much grass have you?—At Somerville Aston I have about 400 acres out of little more than 1,000. I can deliver an exact account of that.

12920. Is not that a larger proportion of grass than usual?—Yes, it is a grazing country at the Hoo. I have no grass; only about 20 or 30 acres out of 500.

12921. You stated you had increased your farming establishment lately in consequence of taking farms which other men had failed on?—I do not say lately, but 20 years ago.

12922. Have you had this great quantity for 20 years?—At Somerville Aston I have had it 30. Lord Somerville divided it into three farms; one of the farmers broke in three or four years, and another in six or seven, and then I got it all; I have had it nearly 30 years.

12923. You have the whole of the parish?—Yes.

12924. Does that give you any advantage in the management of your labourers?—Yes.

12925. They have never been out of employ?—Not one.

12926. Are you able to control the building of the tenements of those people?—Lord Somerville built me one or two, but that was in the place of one that was pulled down.

12927. Have you had no increase in the population?—Yes.

12928. How are they provided with cottages?—There are two farm-houses vacant, and I make them into tenements; the tenants lived in them formerly when they were separate farms.

12929. Was not it the custom for farmers to have labourers in their houses?—Servants in their houses; some did, I never had many.

12930. Speaking of the tenantry of your district formerly, do you think they are as rich a body of men as they were 20 years ago?—Really I cannot answer that question; I should almost think not; I should say certainly not; but I know I am myself.

12931. Taking the whole of your district, do you think the farmers are possessed of as much capital as they were 20 years ago?—I should think not.

12932. They have been labouring 20 years, losing money instead of gaining it?—I should think they are not so rich, many of them.

12933. Taking the whole of the farmers of your district, do you think they are possessed of as much capital as they were 20 years ago?—I should think they are; they have parted with their property to their children, a good deal of it; but those farmers holding the same land, their property is not so much as it was then, inasmuch as that stock is not worth anything like the same money.

12934. Do you think, taking the change in the value of money into consideration, they have as much disposable capital, and that that capital will go as far as it did 20 years ago?—I think further, in the neighbourhood; they are enabled to establish their children in business as well now as they were 20 years ago.

12935. Upon the average they will probably be in the same position as to their children as they were 20 years ago?—Yes.

12936. Do you think they are able to put out their children in the same situations of life, and as creditably, as they did 10 or 20 years ago?—I think I have stated before, that where the landlords took extravagant rents from them they are not; where they have had rents fairly I think they are.

12937. Speaking of the average?—I should think upon the average not; some of the landlords have not reduced their rents at all.

12938. Did it ever occur to you why there was this necessity for reducing the rent?—The lower price of corn.

12939. Did it ever occur to you what caused the low price of corn?—A great many causes; the transition from war to peace did not require such a large stock of corn to be kept, nor to be wasted; and I have no doubt that the return to cash-payments lowered the price of everything, not farming produce only, but everything; but I always thought (it is a mere opinion of my own) that that reduced it from an unhealthy to a healthy state; I may be wrong.

12940. Still it had the effect of reducing it?—Certainly.

12941-42. To what extent?—I cannot answer that question; there are many things concurring together to lower the price of everything.

12943. Marquis of *Chandos.*] You appear to be in a very prosperous way?—I have no hesitation in saying I commenced farming with only 70 acres of land, and am occupying now between 2,000 and 3,000.

12944. As a large farmer of course you are in the habit of going round the country and attending markets?—Certainly; I sell my corn at Evesham; I seldom sell the corn of the Somerville Aston but at Evesham; I never sell any other but at the markets close to my farm.

12945. You do not go beyond the markets in your neighbourhood generally?—Yes, to buy cattle.

12946. Where do you go?—To markets in Gloucestershire.

12947. Do you know anything of the state of the farmers?—I know little as to them but when I meet them there.

12948. Do you understand they are in so prosperous a state as you are?—I understand they are not.

12949. Are the farmers near to you in a state of as much prosperity as you are?—Those on one side of me are doing very well, and on the other side they

Mr. *W. Crowther.*

3 May 1836.

are doing very badly; on one side they have been under liberal and good landlords, and I hear no fault at all; on the other they are under another sort of landlord; they are very poor.

12950. Do you think that the state of the farmer arises from the different disposition of the landlord?—Together with the price of corn; for with wheat at 5*s.* a bushel they cannot be doing so well as at 8*s.* or 10*s.* a bushel.

12951. Then they are in distress?—One part of them I think are not. I hope they are not in distress; I hope they have got a little money beforehand.

12952. Do you know that they have?—Yes; I do know that from what they state to me when I meet them.

12953. Have you signed any petition from your neighbourhood on agricultural distress?—No, certainly not; I think they do a great deal of harm, inducing farmers to look to the Legislature instead of to their own industry and frugality.

12954. Have there been no petitions from your neighbourhood?—Yes, there have. I have been requested to sign them, but never would.

12955. Have they been signed by many farmers?—A great many.

12956. Would they sign them unless they were in distress?—I suppose not; but I think if they had been more economical and more industrious, they would not have required to sign those petitions.

12957. You are quite satisfied with the state of things, and you consider that a farmer has only to be economical and manage things well, and he may be prosperous?—At present prices I am sure he may.

12958. The Legislature can relieve them in no way?—Yes, very likely they can; I do not know that they can; but if we can have wheat from 50*s.* to 60*s.* a quarter, and mutton at 6*d.* per lb., and beef at 6*d.* per lb., I do not think there need be any distress among the farmers. The farmers do not require the rent to be lowered in the same proportion as the price of corn has lowered. I can recollect, when I began farming first, if I made a sheep 20 lbs. a quarter at two year old, it was as much as I could do. I can do it now at one year old with the improved sorts, that gives us an advantage. A bullock used to be sold at four or five years old, and now he comes out at two or three years. The Swedish turnips were not grown then; the idea of feeding a cow upon them was never thought of; but since we have grown Swede turnips we can use them for feeding, and that enables the farmer to give a higher rent. We have not been standing still while the manufacturers have been improving, I hope.

12959. Are not you almost a solitary instance of prosperity?—Certainly not; my neighbours on one side are doing remarkably well.

12960. Have none of them signed the petition?—I should think not.

12961. Are you sure of that?—I cannot be sure.

12962. You hold a farm near Kidderminster?—Yes.

12963. Is not the neighbourhood of that town very beneficial to you?—Yes.

12964. You get manure cheap?—Yes.

12965. Could you hold a farm at a distance from a town on the terms you hold that?—Certainly not; we give more rent in consequence of that. I should presume such land, 10 miles from a town, where we could not get manure, would not be worth half as much; my farm at Somerville Aston does not want so much manure.

12966. Do you consider that the farmers have as much corn in hand now as they had three years ago?—I do not know; perhaps there is not as much. I am a large holder of wheat, and it may be injurious to answer such a question.

12967. According to your account you must be the most prosperous man living?—No, I do not represent that; I believe there have been many others as prosperous as I have, and much more so.

12968. Have the farmers in your neighbourhood as much corn in hand as they had three or four years ago?—I believe so; there is a good deal of wheat held now. The farmers will not sell unless they can get something like 6*s.* or 7*s.* a bushel.

12969. Have they small farms or large farms generally?—Large farms generally; there are very few small farms in our neighbourhood.

12970. Do you think there is nothing the Legislature can do to benefit those farmers?—I do not know, indeed.

12971. The situation of the farmers is such, you do not look to relief; you think

think that you can go on well without any relief?—Yes, generally, without legislative relief. If we can ensure wheat at 60 *s.* a quarter, everything else will proportion itself to the price of wheat.

12972. You are to be considered as the mouthpiece of the farmers in Gloucestershire?—No.

12973. You stated that you could answer for them, that they were as well off as they were three years ago?—I only stated that on one side they were doing well. I think they are quite as well off as they were three years ago, doing quite as well.

12974. Are you to be understood as giving your opinion on behalf of the farmers?—Not on their behalf; but that is my opinion.

12975. As compared with 10 years ago?—No, not 10 years ago.

12976. Is there any difference between the clay land and the light land?—The light land has been more beneficial the last few years than the clay land.

12977. The clay lands have not retained their former position?—No.

12978. Then how can a farmer holding a clay farm be as well off as he was three years ago, if the clay has not held its position?—The clay has not held its position with the sands, I conceive.

12979. With the light land?—Yes; the light lands may be better off than they were three years ago, and the clay lands as well.

12980. What is the state of a clay farm now as compared with three years ago?—I think farming at the present prices of 6 *s.* or 7 *s.* for wheat is quite as good as it was three years ago on a clay farm; I do not think wheat was worth so much three years ago, if I recollect right; but I do not carry these things in my mind.

12981. How many labourers do you employ upon your farm altogether?—I do not know at all; the population of the parish of Somerville Aston is about 120 or 130 people, and I employ the whole of them; and probably about one-fourth as many more; there is no such thing as a person out of employ in the parish of Somerville Aston, nor has been for 30 years.

12982. You farm in the county of Warwick?—I hold one farm there.

12983. What is the state of the farmers in the county of Warwick?—I think at the present prices, 6 *s.* to 7 *s.* a bushel, the farmers in Warwickshire are doing well.

12984. They express themselves so at the markets?—No, they do not; they have not done; but I think they do now. I do not hear a single farmer but what is satisfied with the present prices; they have said, if we could see it 1 *l.* a bag (for it is sold by that stupid measure), we should be satisfied.

12985. In general you hear from farmers they are generally satisfied, and that they are not in any distress?—Yes; that with the present prices they are perfectly satisfied; if they are in any distress it must be before they had got to these prices.

12986. You have stated that the farmers generally are not in distress in the county of Gloucester?—Yes, and that is the case in the county of Warwick.

12987. Speaking of those two counties, the Committee are to understand you to say the farmers in general are not in distress?—I consider that at the present time they are quite content with the present prices, with wheat at 60 *s.* a quarter.

12988. They are not in distress?—Not in distress at the present prices; if they are in distress at all, it is at the low price of corn; when they have been selling wheat at 40 *s.* a quarter they may have sunk money then, and some of them did that.

12989. Then if they have sunk money they are not so well off as they were before?—I speak of the economical and industrious farmers; they have not sunk money at a fair rent.

12990. Have not they lost money?—I think not, where they have been economical, and not too high rented.

12991. Mr. *Evans.*] Are you connected with the carpet manufactory?—In America, not in England; my son has gone into that; he comes of age this month; and I may be said to be engaged in it in that way.

12992. Mr. *Heathcote.*] Have you seen a proposition of Mr. Hume, that the county rates should be managed by a board?—I have been advocating that in opposition to the magistrates of Worcestershire; the county rates will soon get nearly as much as my poor-rates.

Mr. *W. Crowther.*

3 May 1836.

12993. What were the county rates on your farm?—I think I pay about 36 *l.* or 37 *l.* a-year.

12994. On which farm?—The 1,000 acres.

12995. What is that an acre?—About 9 *d.* an acre; I know our county rates are very high, shamefully high, and I have no doubt that if the payers of the county rates had a vote for the disbursement of them, they would not be nearly so high as they are; that was my opinion long before I saw it advocated by Mr. Hume; for four or five years ago I had a controversy with the Worcestershire magistrates upon that very subject, on the building of new Town-halls and such things as those.

12996. *Chairman.*] The proceedings were not conducted in open court then?—They were not; they are now.

12997. Has any reduction taken place in your county rates since that?—I am not aware that there has.

12998. Is your county rate published?—Yes; but though I have this farm in Worcestershire, I do not reside there, therefore I generally do not interfere; but I did when I thought the magistrates were giving too much of the property of farmers away.

12999. Is it not natural you should turn your attention to the published account, to see whether they were decreasing?—I really believe they have been increasing; but my bailiff always pays the rates there, and therefore my attention has not been called to them.

13000. You farm largely in different counties?—In three counties.

13001. And on different soils?—Yes, on different soils; as different as they can be.

13002. Would it be in your power to increase the growth of barley beyond the present quantity?—Yes; I do not know that I can on any light soil, because I grow as much as I can there; I grow it every fourth year; on the other I can most certainly, because I grow more wheat in proportion than I do barley; but I grow as much barley on the light soil as I do wheat.

13003. With a general knowledge of the description of soil immediately contiguous to your different farms, do you think if half the duty on malt were taken off, and consequently a greater demand, the farmers could grow enough to meet that demand?—Certainly.

13004. Do you think a reduction of half the duty on malt would be beneficial to the farming interest?—Yes, I think it would, inasmuch as they would save that much in what they drank, and what their labourers drink; but I think to take off the malt tax at all, if it benefitted the farmers, would benefit that class of farmers who want relief least, if they want relief at all, for the farmers upon barley soils want less relief than the clay farms do.

13005. Do you not conceive a large quantity of barley is grown on the clay?—Undoubtedly, for I grow it at Somerville Aston.

13006. From your general knowledge of the country round you, do not you think the breeding flocks are beginning to recover from the effects of the rot four or five years ago?—Yes.

13007. Has the stock of the farmers round you got up to what it was previously to that?—Yes, I think it has; there is a scarcity of stock now, I think, in consequence of the very large consumption of mutton there has been. I think this year, although there may have been as many sheep fattened, they have not made so much mutton, in consequence of there not being turnips to fat them on. Suppose a person had sheep that would make 20 lbs. a quarter, and sells them when they are only 16, it requires more sheep to be sold.

13008. Do you buy your sheep in the fall?—Yes, I always buy in the fall of the year.

13009. Do you buy any in the spring?—I am generally a seller in the spring. I buy in the fall, every Michaelmas.

13010. Was not it the fact that sheep fell relatively in October to what they had been during the previous spring, owing to the scarcity of turnips?—Wether sheep did; but for ewes I gave nearly the same price, within 2 *s.* a-piece, as the year before. I buy them all at Michaelmas. I buy 700 or 800 at Michaelmas.

13011. Do you farm at all in open field?—Not at all.

13012. *Mr. Evans.*] You stated that a large estate in South Worcestershire was relet lately?—Yes, within this twelvemonth.

13013. What difference was there in the rent on the reletting?—That I cannot

cannot say; it was talked that I should have something to do with the valuing of it; but the tenant took it again without any person being called in, and I believe perfectly to their satisfaction.

13014. Were considerable reductions made?—I cannot say.

13015. *Mr. Miles.*] Has all the money you have made arisen from farming?—Entirely; every shilling of it. I have had an estate left me by my mother in Shropshire, but that has been an injury to me as to ready money, because I had to pay money out of it.

13016. What has been the reduction in rent made by your landlord; is there a great difference?—I have had no reduction at all made in Worcestershire upon my farm; the farm in Warwickshire I have had a reduction of 10 per cent., and at Somerville Aston the reduction has been, I should think, from the very highest times, something like half; but I ought to explain why it was let so very high. The late Lord Somerville gave his tenants leave to break up a large quantity of pasture land and plant it with flax; consequently during those years he allowed a large quantity to be broken up and planted with flax; it was then very high afterwards. When the next lease was granted he restricted the planting of flax altogether; consequently it was let lower.

13017. Have you been in the habit of growing flax?—About 25 or 26 years ago we did. When Lord Somerville let the land the parish of Somerville Aston was nearly all green, and things were very high; he allowed nearly all that green land to be broken up, or a great portion of it to be broken up, and planted with flax, and for that he took a very high price; it has fallen half since.

13018. You consider flax an impoverishing crop?—I do not think flax impoverishes the land any more than any other crop; but it returns no manure back, therefore it is an impoverishing crop.

13019. It is a good cleansing crop?—Yes.

13020. You have not grown flax, or anybody else, of late?—No; there is none grown in the neighbourhood.

13021. Mr. *Sanford.*] Can you state from recollection the average produce in wheat on your farm per acre?—No, I cannot from recollection; I can give it exactly from documents; no otherwise than I have stated before.

13022. You cannot state the average of different years?—No otherwise than by referring to my books; then I can tell to a bushel how many bushels an acre I grow.

13023. You have nothing to enable you to state that?—No.

13024. Marquis of *Chandos.*] What is the amount of the entire rental you pay for your farms?—I pay for Somerville Aston about 25 *s.* or 26 *s.* an acre; for the Hillborough farm about a guinea and a half an acre, with 10 per cent. reduction; 600 *l.* for Hillborough; about 500 *l.* for the Hoo; and about 1,250 *l.* for Somerville Aston.

13025. Supposing you were to give up that farm, and it was to be on hand, do you think, from the state of farming interest, and the degree of capital in the hands of the farmers, that farm would be taken?—Instantly, at the same rate, and more.

13026. Do you mean to say that farm would bring a higher rent?—It would.

13027. Could you afford to pay a higher rent?—Yes, if I must answer the question; I presume I can afford to give as much as anybody else.

13028. When you say that farm can be let at an increased rent, you would be inclined to give it for that farm?—Yes, if I could not have it without; but I hope and trust I can have it without.

13029. Are you under lease, or a tenant at will?—I am a tenant at will in Warwickshire and Worcestershire; but I am under lease at Somerville Aston; provided wheat gets up to 7 *s.* 6 *d.* a bushel, I have to give 200 *l.* a year more for it; and so on, till it gets up to 11 *s.* 6 *d.* a bushel.

13030. Mr. *Cayley.*] Should you be better off if you paid 200 *l.* a year more if it got up to 7 *s.* 6 *d.* a bushel?—If it got nearly to that; I presume if it gets a little higher I shall have to pay that. I can afford to give 200 *l.* a year for it; it was my own proposition. Lord Somerville left it in a measure to me; I considered that 200 *l.* a year would be a fair rise with 1 *s.* a bushel.

13031. Do you think the farmers in your neighbourhood would be satisfied with 60*s.* a quarter?—Yes.

Mr. *W. Crowther.*

3 May 1836.

13032. And that they have no reason to complain?—They have no reason to complain at 60*s.*

13033. And that they have reason to complain with less?—Yes.

13034. Mr. *Sanford.*] What is your opinion of the existing corn-laws?—I have always thought them bad; but I do not think they could be repealed now without great danger; I think that would lower the price.

13035. What alteration should you prefer?—To have a fixed duty upon corn.

13036. What duty would you propose?—From 12*s.* to 15*s.* a quarter, I think, would be quite high enough.

13037. Less than from 12*s.* to 15*s.* a quarter would not give a sufficient protection?—I should think so; but I cannot be sure of that.

13038. Mr. *Heathcote.*] Could the Government keep on such duty if corn was dear?—I should decidedly think not; for I think the manufacturing interest would be too powerful, and would not pay it.

13039. Therefore when corn was rather dear it would be of no use?—No, I think not.

13040. Then when corn is cheap the present duty is more?—Yes.

13041. Then it would not do the agriculturist any good when corn was cheap?—I have always looked upon it as injurious to the country; it was that induced me to become a manufacturer of carpets in America.

13042. How would that do if corn was cheap; would 15*s.* or the present duty be the best for the farmer?—I have always thought that a fixed duty would be the best; 15*s.* a quarter, I think, would be a sufficient protection.

13043. Which would be the best; that you have at present, or 15*s.* a quarter?—If the question is confined to the farmers solely, the duty we have at present is best. I have not considered that fully.

13044. With no duty at all, if corn was high, what possible advantage could it be to the agriculturist to change it to a fixed duty?—I do not know that there would be an advantage to the agriculturist; I speak of the country generally; probably it would be a disadvantage to him for some time, though not ultimately; it may be for his benefit ultimately.

13045. You speak from a disinterested view, as a citizen of the world, not as an agriculturist?—Yes.

13046. Marquis of *Chandos.*] Are the Committee to understand that you are rather in favour of free trade?—It is a thing beyond my comprehension. I do not know; I have thought but little about it.

13047. Have you never formed an opinion upon that?—No; I have heard it canvassed among my brother farmers a great deal, but it is a thing I do not give my attention to; though, if I was to do so, I think I should be an advocate for free trade; but I do not mean to say that I am competent to give an opinion upon it; I am nothing but a farmer.

13048. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] Do you think half the sum you have mentioned, a duty of 7*s.* or 7*s.* 6*d.*, could be maintained under the pressure of scarcity, or the apprehension of scarcity, supposing the manufacturing population in this country to be extensively out of employ; and do you think it would be right in the Legislature to maintain that restriction?—I think not.

13049. Do you recollect the scarcity that occurred in the years 1800 and 1801?—I think I do recollect it; I think I recollect selling wheat at 28*s.* a bushel for my mother. I was not in business for myself then.

13050. Are you aware of any particular measures resorted to by the government of Prussia at that time?—No, not at all.

Mr. *Richard Stevenson,* called in; and Examined.

Mr. *R. Stevenson.*

13051. *Chairman.*] WHERE do you reside?—At Barton, near Nottingham.

13052. What is your occupation?—A farmer and maltster, and as a general merchant.

13053. Are you acquainted with the state of the agricultural interest in any considerable part of that country?—I farm nearly 300 acres of land in the county of Nottingham.

13054. Are you acquainted with a great number of farmers, and the state of the farming interest?—Yes.

13055. What is the condition of the farming interest in that part of Nottinghamshire

193

hamshire at the present moment, as compared with what it was in the year 1833?—The farmers seem to be in a worse situation generally; they have lessened their capital considerably.

13056. To what do you attribute that?—We have attributed it partly to one cause and partly to another; during a number of years, to the currency; but latterly we do not think that cause operates, and we have had some abundant crops of wheat, and the price has been very low.

13057. Has that distress been prevalent equally among the farmers on light land as among the farmers on heavy land?—I think it has operated pretty generally where they grow wheat.

13058. Has it operated equally on farmers who grow barley; on the light land farmers?—It has not operated so much on the barley; the prices of barley have been better than the price of wheat.

13059. You say you occupy 300 acres of land yourself; has your own farm been profitable to you for the last three years?—I think not; it has been as profitable as most, for it is in a very high state of cultivation.

13060. What is the nature of the soil?—Various soils; from sharp gravel to cold clay.

13061. Do you rent that farm, or is it your own property?—I rent it.

13062. Has there been any abatement in your rent lately?—Yes; there has been some abatement, and some returns that were not abatements.

13063. When was that abatement made?—There was an abatement made about the year 1820, and there have been returns besides since.

13064. What is your rent now?—It is nearly 40*s.* an acre.

13065. What was your rent in 1820, before the abatement was made?—Nearly 50*s.* an acre.

13066. Ten shillings has been the whole amount of the abatement since 1820?—Rather more than 10*s.*

13067. Have other landlords abated to their tenants in the same measure as yours has been abated?—Pretty generally.

13068. Do you think the abatement has been sufficient to meet the present times?—It is difficult to say how long the present prices will last; we hope for better times.

13069. In your opinion, what can the Legislature do to assist the farmer?—I think the malt is too highly taxed; since I can recollect it used to be 10*s.* 6*d.* a quarter; that was before the late war: for a while it was 34*s.* 8*d.*; and now it is 20*s.* 8*d.* But I admit the ale duty is taken off.

13070. Supposing that the malt tax were reduced to 10*s.* 6*d.* a quarter, what do you think would be the effect upon the price of barley?—There would be an increased consumption of barley; the land would be sown with barley instead of wheat.

13071. You do not think that there would be any great rise in the price of barley?—Yes, the consumption would be greater.

13072. The wheat would be grown only on those soils on which it could be grown at a cheaper rate?—It would, I apprehend, be grown in the same course of husbandry where now barley is excluded; but it would come in its course.

13073. Is there any other measure of relief that could be afforded you besides the lowering the malt duty?—I am not able to point out any.

13074. Supposing the reduction of that duty was to involve an alteration of the corn laws in respect of barley, do you think that could be reduced with advantage to the farmer?—It would depend upon what the alteration was.

13075. Supposing the malt duty to be reduced in the way you propose, do you think the supply of barley could be increased so as to meet the increased demand?—Yes.

13076. Do you think barley could be grown upon the clay lands?—Upon some of them; the best of them.

13077. It is your opinion that more wheat is grown at present than ought to be grown?—Yes.

13078. Do you attribute the low price of wheat to that surplus growth of it?—I think that there has been more wheat grown than would naturally in place of barley, because barley has been very heavily taxed; during the war it came to about 16 *l.* the statute acre, the malt duty and the ale duty, in some instances.

13079. Have any farms been out of occupation in your neighbourhood lately?—There have been some gone into the landlords hands for want of occupiers.

Mr. *R. Stevenson.*

3 May 1836.

13080. Has there been any difficulty in getting tenants for them?—There was a farm of 500 acres advertised a year ago, and no applications for it, and the landlord farmed it himself.

13081. Does the landlord farm it now?—No, he is deceased; it is let now by the next owner.

13082. Had he any difficulty in letting it?—I think not.

13083. Did he let it at a reduced rent, or the same rent?—A reduced rent.

13084. Was that rent reduced in the same proportion as yours?—I should think more.

13085. Are the local burthens heavy in your county?—We complain mostly of the county rates.

13086. They are founded on the poor-rate?—Yes.

13087. What is the amount of your county rate in the pound?—I came up suddenly, on short notice, and have not that account with me; but they are very high in the county of Nottingham.

13088. In what hundred in Nottinghamshire do you reside?—Rushcliff.

13089. Have you such a thing as a hundred-rate in that part of the county?—Yes.

13090. Do you pay the expense of repairing bridges out of your hundred-rate?—The devastation for burning Nottingham Castle and the silk-mill increased our rates, that would be upon the hundred of Broxton; but they lie very heavy on all the hundreds; it is spread over several years, I believe.

13091. What does the poor-rate amount to?—The poor-rates with us are low.

13092. How are they calculated on; two-thirds of your rack-rent, or how?—On an ancient rate, made in the year 1760.

13093. Can you tell what proportion that assessment bears to your full rent?—The proportion to the rack-rent would be about half, I should think.

13094. How many shillings is it in the pound on the assessment of one-half your rack-rent?—Between 2 *s.* and 3 *s.*, I think.

13095. Is your parish included in any of the new unions?—Lately it has been.

13096. How long ago has it been included?—About a month.

13097. Then you cannot speak to the operation of the new Poor Law Act?—No.

13098. Are your labourers well off?—They have been much better off, while provisions were cheap and employment plentiful, than they were a few years ago.

13099. Are there any out of employment?—No.

13100. Is there much reduction in their wages?—The artisans are not reduced; the farmers' labourers are reduced somewhat in proportion to the price of provisions.

13101. But you think that the labourers are better off now?—I will answer that by the proverbial saying amongst farmers' labourers (for centuries perhaps), "A penny, or a peck of wheat per day;" meaning that a peck of wheat once sold for a penny, and that was deemed equal to a day's wages of best labourers.

13102. Mr. *Miles.*] In your parish is there one of the associated workhouses?—No, it was under another Act; we contributed to a workhouse under an older Act than for the Union.

13103. What wages do you pay your agricultural labourers a week at Barton?—They have now 10 *s.* a week.

13104. They had 12 *s.* till lately?—Yes; they have been as low as 9 *s.*

13105. When did you reduce them to 10 *s.*?—The highest price they had was 15 *s.* a week when wheat was dear; and they have gradually gone down as the price of wheat has gone down.

13106. Three years ago they were 12 *s.* a week, were they not?—Yes.

13107. From that time they have gone down from 12 *s.* to 10 *s.*?—Yes.

13108. The situation of the agricultural labourers in Nottinghamshire is still very good, is it not?—They are well off, because provisions have been so low.

13109. Mr. *Heathcote.*] Have you many stocking-weavers in that part of the county?—Not in our immediate neighbourhood; there is a very large quantity found in the county round about.

13110. Do you ever find that when any stoppage takes place in trade those stocking-weavers come upon the rates of the agricultural parishes, and cause any great and increased burden to them?—They have done; they have gone and asked the overseer for work, and got it by what is called "house row."

13111. Has that been in your parish?—We have had that in our parish.

13112. Not

195

Mr. *R. Stevenson.*

3 May 1836.

13112. Not to any great extent?—No.

13113. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] Do you say your present wages were 10 *s.* a week?—Yes.

13114. Do you think that rate of wages at any rate justified by the price of wheat, supposing it to be under 50 *s.* a quarter?—It is high.

13115. What did you pay before the war?—We paid 9 *s.* a week then.

13116. Mr. *Miles.*] Have you ever turned your attention to the bill now before Parliament for the commutation of tithes?—No, not particularly; we have nothing to do with paying tithes.

Mr. *Thomas Boniface,* called in; and Examined.

Mr. *T. Boniface.*

13117. *Chairman.*] WHERE do you reside?—At Climping, near Littlehampton, in Sussex.

13118. What is your occupation?—I am a farmer.

13119. Do you occupy a large extent of land?—About 300 acres, rather more.

13120. Is that in a stiff soil?—Not entirely; I have some land that is stiff, and I have other land of a very different quality.

13121. Are you well acquainted with any considerable district of country?—Yes; I am a land surveyor and valuer.

13122. You are aware of the condition of the farmers in that part of the county of Sussex?—Yes, I am.

13123. State to the Committee whether it is better or worse than it was three or four years ago?—I do not think the condition of the farmers generally in the county of Sussex is better than it was three or four years ago. The condition of the heavy land in Sussex, I think, is better; it is cleaner, and in a better condition owing to the favourable seasons we have had the last three years for that description of soil; but I do not think the condition of the farmer is better; in fact, I think his condition is deteriorated rather of the two; his capital is less.

13124. What is the rent of that description of soil in Sussex?—The rent in Sussex varies materially, perhaps as much as in any part of England; and I think rather more than in any other part of England I am acquainted with; there is some of the best description of land, and some of the worst.

13125. The farmers you alluded to that are worse off are those of the worst description of the stiff soil, probably?—I allude generally to the condition of the farmers not being better; but I allude particularly to the stiff soil being in a better condition than it was at that time.

13126. What is the rent of that description of stiff soil?—Ten shillings an acre, a great deal of it.

13127. Has there been any reduction made lately, or is that the lowest scale of rent?—I think material reductions have been made lately; in fact, the rent for that description of land is very badly paid.

13128. What is the amount of the poor-rates in your own parish; how much an acre?—The poor-rates in the parish of Climping, in which I reside, would not lead to any satisfactory conclusion as to the poor-rates of Sussex generally; it is probable there are not many parishes in the county lower rated; the poor-rates of the parishes near me are much higher. I should say possibly they have been rated at the half value, at 6 *s.* and 7 *s.* in the pound.

13129. About 6 *s.* or 7 *s.* in the pound?—Yes.

13130. Has there been any reduction in the poor-rate lately?—Yes, certainly; since the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Bill.

13131. How long has that been in operation in your county?—Several Unions have taken place since the passing of the Bill. The parish in which I live is not unionised under the new Act; we are under Gilbert's Act; but the parishes immediately adjoining me have been unionised under the Amendment Bill.

13132. Do you know any instance of a great reduction of rates in any parish included in one of those new Unions?—Yes; I am a rate-payer to a very trifling extent only within a new Union, and consequently I am not prepared to speak as to the actual reduction; but the general report in the Union of Hampnett is that the poor-rates are reduced to a very great extent. I have no doubt of the fact, because I am constantly in communication with the

Mr. *T. Boniface.*

3 May 1836.

principal rate-payers, and am intimate with the guardians. I have heard that the rates through the Union of Hampnett have materially reduced since the operation of the Act.

13133. Have you heard what has been the operation on the labourers?—Yes, I have; and I experience that. I can speak positively upon that subject. The condition of a labourer with a large family, I think, is rendered considerably worse by the Amendment Bill; but unless that be the case, unless they are burdened with a large family, the improvement that has taken place in their moral conduct, I think, has more than compensated for the falling off of the wages.

13134. Have you many labourers out of full employment in that district?—Not a great many; there are a few out of employment.

13135. Under the old system of poor laws, were there many out of employment?—Yes, there were; but in the adjoining parishes, those I can speak of as having been oppressed with the poor-rates, a great many men have emigrated to America; some parishes have sent 50 souls, some 70. It amounted in six or seven parishes to 250 or 300 souls.

13136. That has taken away the surplus labourers?—In a great degree.

13137. Have there been any farms out of lease in that part of Sussex of late?—A great many.

13138. Has there been any difficulty in getting tenants?—No, I think not.

13139. Have those tenants been men of capital?—In many instances they have not been men of sufficient capital for the occupation they have engaged in.

13140. Have those tenants taken those farms at reduced rents?—Certainly. There may be exceptions where the rents may not have been reduced; but, generally, there has been a reduction.

13141. Where a man has been farming this clay land in the county of Sussex, with capital and at a fair rent, do you think he has been prospering for the last six years or not?—No, I think not.

13142. Have there been any improvements made on farms of that description?—Not the last three or four years; previously to that there were great improvements.

13143. Within five or six years have there been great improvements made?—No, I think not, since the decline of the price of wheat.

13144. Have those improvements been in draining or not?—The improvements I speak of were generally effected in 1823, 1824 and 1825. Those were years of great improvement with us, almost the whole of the wheat land (I am not including the 10*s.* an acre land, but good lands), averaging from 15*s.* to 30*s.* an acre; those lands, from 1823 to 1829, were very much improved by draining.

13145. Has there been any draining done within the last three years?—Not a great deal.

13146. Was the draining which was done principally by the landlords or the tenants?—Principally by the tenants.

13147. When the draining has been done, has it not paid a fair interest for the money laid out?—It has increased the produce; but I am not prepared to say that it has paid a fair interest, in consequence of the reduction in the price of wheat and the short crop of Lent corn.

13148. What has been the cause of the reduced price?—I apprehend it is to be attributed in a great degree to the crops, since 1832, including 1832.

13149. Do you think the crops for the last three years have been above an average?—Yes, the wheat; I think the Lent crop of 1832 was a good crop, but the barley and oat crops since 1832 have been exceedingly short.

13150. But the prices of barley and oats have been sufficiently remunerating?—If we had got average crops they would have been sufficiently high.

13151. Has the price of stock been remunerating to the farmer?—Undoubtedly it has.

13152. Where the farmer has been possessed of stock upon his farm, has he done very much amiss?—On the flock farms I think the occupiers have been better off than on any other description of soil. My reasons for thinking so are these: that they have derived naturally an advantage from the high price of sheep, for that is very important to parts of our county; there was a sudden rise of prices from the rot, and consequently beneficial to the occupiers of

of all flock farms who did not rot their sheep; consequently, on the whole, I do not think they have been so much short of the average return in money as the low land farmers.

13153. In those clay land farms do the farmers keep much stock?—No.

13154. Are there many bullocks on those farms?—No; in the Weald of Sussex the stock has decreased very much.

13155. When were the rents reduced in your neighbourhood?—The rents were reduced in 1821; but they revived again. The principal reduction has occurred since 1830.

13156. If a reduction had not been made since 1830 greater than at earlier times, do you think those farms would have been able to go on and pay the farmer?—I should hardly think so, part is so burthened with poor; the Weald of Sussex is particularly burthened. I think the east part of Sussex differs very greatly in the circumstances of its agriculture from the western part of Sussex in which I reside. I will mention a parish in the eastern part of Sussex, which I know intimately. The land has been rated; I speak now previously to the Poor Law Amendment Bill; it has been rated at about five-sixths of the value, and they actually paid an assessment of 20 *s.* in the pound upon it.

13157. That was more in fact than the rental of the land?—No; it was rated at five-sixths of the whole, and 20 *s.* in the pound paid.

13158. You apprehend that the losses of the Sussex farmers have been owing to the heavy pressure of the poor-rate?—Undoubtedly heavy on the land of which I have spoken.

13159. The passing of the Poor Law Amendment Bill has done them great good?—It has done a great deal of good; but I would mention a particular instance in which I think it will not do good, and that is as regards a man burthened with a large family; it will have the effect of throwing that man out of the labour market. Two instances have come within my own knowledge; a relation of mine, who employs a man living near me with six or seven children, said to me, "If that man's allowance in flour is discontinued I shall not like to employ him. I can only afford to pay him the same wages that I pay another man," mentioning one who has only two children; therefore this man who has the small family must necessarily be better off than the man who has a large family, and consequently more desirable as a labourer.

13160. What were his wages?—Nine shillings a week.

13161. None of that family you speak of were able to earn anything for themselves?—No; only to a trifling extent.

13162. Mr. *Heathcote.*] Have any parties gone from your parish to the manufacturing districts of the north of England?—From the Union of Hampnett I am told that they sent one man first to ascertain the state of the people in the manufacturing towns, and he returned with his report; and subsequently to that he has gone with his family to reside there; and I have also heard it mentioned that others are about to proceed there.

13163. *Chairman.*] Have you heard of the man since he has been residing in the manufacturing district?—I am not able to speak positively, because I do not belong to the Union. I have heard that the accounts from that man have not been sufficiently favourable to induce others to go, but I do not know this of my own knowledge.

13164. Sir *Charles Burrell.*] Is he an industrious man by reputation?—I should think he was unfortunate, inasmuch as he was connected with the rioting.

13165. When he went to the manufacturing district and got work would he be a diligent man in it?—He lived with a friend of mine several years, and from his report of his character I should think that he was an industrious man.

13166. Mr. *Heathcote.*] It was only his connexion with the riots that rendered his residence in Sussex disagreeable, and made him unlikely to succeed, and there was nothing in his character and conduct to hinder him from succeeding elsewhere?—Nothing.

13167. Sir *Charles Burrell.*] Were the riots you speak of in 1830?—It was subsequently to that; it was very partial; a rising of the parish of Feltham when first the operation of the poor law commenced.

13168. Mr. *Heathcote.*] A great deal of emigration from Sussex has been carried on by subscriptions by private individuals?—The landowners have assisted;

Mr. *T. Boniface.*

3 May 1836.

assisted; and in other cases it has been done by the tenants alone, but by no other means of subscription. In the parish of Warburton Mr. Prime assisted, and in the parish of Feltham the landlords have assisted. In the parish of Yapton the landowners assisted; but with respect to emigration a difficulty arose immediately out of the amended Bill. In the parish of Yapton last spring there were several of the paupers about to proceed to New York, where their friends had gone before. On the application of the parish officers to the assistant-commissioner, or to the central board, a difficulty arose as to sending the persons to New York. I believe that it was required of them that they should proceed to Canada instead of New York. They wished to go to New York to join their friends; the commissioners refused to allow this; the consequence was, half the paupers refused to emigrate.

13169. Mr. *Cayley.*] Are the farmers of Sussex, in consequence of the prices they get for their produce, able to pay the wages which they now pay?—The wages of labour are not paid in reference to the value of labour, but they are paid in reference to the sum on which a man can live.

13170. Then the tenant is paying the wages out of his capital?—He has paid higher wages than he has occasion to do. Provided the occupier of a farm had said to his labourers "Instead of giving you 9 *s.* a week, I will give you 7 *s.* a week," and his own parishioners had refused to work for that sum, I do not think he would have had any difficulty in getting others to engage for those wages; consequently the money has been paid in reference to the sum on which a man can live, and not in reference to the value of labour.

13171. Consequently not in proportion to the farmer's profits?—Certainly not in proportion to the tenant's profit.

13172. If the labourer is now depending for his wages not upon the profits of the farmer, but upon his capital, do you think that is a state of things likely to continue?—No; it appears to me that it will not continue; it would not have continued in the state in which we now find it if it had not been for the riots of 1830, in our county. If it had not been for those riots, wages would have been lower at this time than they are. At that time there was a considerable rise of wages, and they never have reduced themselves in proportion to the fall in the price of wheat.

13173. The rise that took place was from intimidation in consequence of the fires?—Undoubtedly.

13174. And the fires were in consequence of a disposition on the part of the tenantry to reduce the wages corresponding with the reduction in prices?—Yes.

13175. Do you think that if there were no rent at all, wheat could be cultivated in your district at 40 *s.* a quarter?—I think in the parish in which I reside it could if there was no rent; but there are parts of the county in which I think it could not.

13176. What proportion?—That I am unable to say; I can identify the description of land, the Weald of Sussex.

13177. You have been asked whether the poor-rates are not the great burden of the farmer. How long have the poor-rates existed?—The poor-rates have been increasing the last 10 years very alarmingly, up to the time of the passing of the Bill.

13178. Have the poor-rates increased in consequence of the incapability of the farmers to employ the labourers?—Certainly.

13179. Has that incapability arisen from the fall of prices?—In a great degree.

13180. Then the labourer was better off under the higher rate of prices, than he is now?—I think he was best off under the former circumstances, because he had not the temptation to spend his money that he now has. They are nominally well off as regards their wages, it is true, but their conduct is so different; in fact, it is the beer-shop system to which I allude; so much of their money has gone to beer-shops, that the labourers within my knowledge have been worse off as regards the necessaries of life than they were formerly.

13181. You stated that rents began to be reduced in 1821; will you state any particular reason why rents should begin in that year to be reduced?—On account of the immense fall in the price of wheat.

13182. Was there a sudden fall then?—Very great.

13183. Can you attribute that to any particular circumstance?—Yes, to a bad

bad harvest; the wheat was of bad quality; the change of currency also, no doubt, had an effect.

13184. Was there a very bad harvest in 1821?—Yes.

13185. Would not that tend to raise the price of wheat?—It was of extremely bad quality, particularly in Sussex.

13186. Do you remember whether there was not a similar fall of oats and barley, and beans and wool, and every kind of agricultural produce at the same time?—Yes, there was.

13187. Would a bad harvest cause a fall in the price of wool?—I do not mention the bad harvest as the chief cause; but I mention it with the leading cause of it, the alteration of the currency.

13188. The leading cause you consider to be the change of currency?—No question about it.

13189. The effect which you felt from that change was very sudden?—Very indeed.

13190. You have spoken of the high price of meat at present; had you a good crop of turnips last year in Sussex?—No; very bad indeed.

13191. Were you able to feed as many sheep for the London market in the winter as usual?—No, where they have been fatted it has been on corn and cake.

13192. Would that cause the present high rate of the price of meat in the London market?—Unquestionably.

13193. Do you think, taking into consideration the expense that the farmer has been at in feeding his sheep, that even the present price of sheep pays him?—No, I do not think it does.

13194. Do you consider that the prices of barley and oats, and wool and meat, are now in the proportion that they will bear eventually to the price of wheat?—Certainly not; it appears to me that all agricultural commodities must in the end be regulated by the price of wheat. It is true that circumstances for a time may render them different in price, but I think eventually they must all return to the price of wheat.

13195. Then you consider that circumstances have been in operation to disturb the proportions that have usually existed between wheat and other produce in the last three or four years?—Yes.

13196. You have been understood to mention a rot in sheep, and last year a scarcity of sheep and a scarcity in the potato crops, which have all tended to produce a high price of meat; and you have been understood also to state that there have been productive seasons of wheat, which would produce an opposite state of things with regard to that commodity. Taking three or four successive average seasons, do you consider that those other commodities would bear the proportion to wheat that they usually have borne?—I think they would.

13197. Would not the beer-duty being taken off tend to make barley higher than it used to be?—Yes, it would increase the consumption; and it has increased the consumption of barley.

13198. Would it tend to raise the price of barley 2*s.* or 3*s.* a quarter?—I cannot say to what extent; but I have no doubt that it has tended to raise it, combined with the shortness of the crop of barley.

13199. Were the losses from the rot very extensive in your district?—Not very; there were a few cases in which they were very severe, but it did not extend.

13200. Did it not extend to all soils of a heavy description?—No; it could not extend to those soils, because sheep were not generally kept on them in the county of Sussex. The flocks in the county of Sussex are usually kept upon the hills, on the light absorbing land, and not a portion of lowland pasture land attached it; it was upon the lowlands that the rot occurred.

13201. In those places where the sheep were fed upon the lowlands is not it the fact that a very extensive rot took place?—Undoubtedly.

13202. Can you estimate the proportion of loss in the county of Sussex?—No, I cannot; I have seen an estimate of it amounting to a fourth of all the sheep in the country.

13203. Do you know any lowland farms where flocks of sheep were kept, and can you state how many remained after the rot compared with the number before the rot?—In two or three farms the whole of the stock were destroyed; but, as I said before, that was not extensively the case in Sussex.

Mr. *T. Boniface.*

3 May 1836.

13204. Mr. *Clay.*] Where did you see this estimate of the loss of sheep that you have spoken of?—I do not know; I have seen the stock of the country of sheep estimated at 32 millions, and the loss by the rot, those that died and were prematurely killed, at eight millions.

13205. Can you recollect where you saw that estimate?—I do not recollect; I apprehend that it was in some periodical.

13206. In some newspaper?—I think so.

13207. Was there a less breadth of wheat sown last autumn than had been sown in previous years?—No; on the contrary, I should think rather more.

13208. Notwithstanding the low price?—The low price would be a natural cause of more being sown, in order to raise a certain sum of money. A farmer makes his calculation of the particular sum he must derive from any particular resource; and if he finds that he is obliged to sell his wheat at 10 *l.* a load, which he originally calculated, on taking his farm, to sell at 15 *l.* a load, and his situation depends, which it does depend, upon raising that sum, he of course, although it is sorry economy, is driven to the plan of sowing more land with wheat, in order to raise the sum that he requires.

13209. Supposing, if he lost money by growing wheat, it would not improve his condition to grow more?—What is he to grow? He has a certain sum of money to make up, and what resource has he besides? The farmers on the heavy land cannot keep stock, the land will not admit of it; the summers have been extremely difficult to the growing of spring corn, and the consequence is, he has only had that which heavy land farmers at all times only have to depend upon, namely, their wheat, to pay their rent and other expenses.

13210. You are now speaking of heavy-land farmers, and not of soil, which is applicable both to grain and to stock?—Certainly not.

13211. Is it the land in the Weald of Sussex you are speaking of?—Yes, I include the whole of the Weald of Sussex.

13212. In your neighbourhood, was there more wheat sown last autumn than in the autumn before?—I think not.

13213. Did you sow more?—No; I have one system of farming, which I consider it advisable not to depart from.

13214. Was there less sown in your immediate neighbourhood than the autumn before?—Certainly not; but there was more Lent corn sown, I think, this year, and less of turnip.

13215. You said that the condition of the labourers, you thought, was worse than during high prices, because they go more to the beer-shops; supposing they did not go to the beer-shops, is not a prudent man better off now than you ever recollect him to have been?—Certainly.

13216. You stated that the harvest of 1821 was of bad quality; do you recollect the harvest of 1820?—Yes.

13217. Were you then a farmer?—Yes.

13218. The wheat then was not of bad quality?—I cannot charge my memory with the fact.

13219. Do you recollect that the harvest of 1820 was a very good crop?—No, I do not.

13220. Are you satisfied with your own profit on farming?—No.

13221. Do you think if you were to throw up your farm that a tenant would be found for it?—Yes, I think there would be a tenant found for it.

13222. At the rent you now pay?—There would be a tenant found for it precisely upon the terms at which now, I am sorry to say, we find it necessary to let almost the whole of the land, within my experience, that is, by the year or at two years' notice, instead of by lease. You will not get a prudent man to take a lease under existing circumstances.

13223. Why will not prudent men take a lease?—There is an impression that the House of Commons, as a whole, is unfavourable to the corn laws, and if I may take the liberty to say so, there is an impression that His Majesty's present Ministers are unfavourable to the corn laws.

13224. Then prudent men will not take a lease, because they think that the price of produce may fluctuate, and may go lower than it is now?—In case of the repeal of the corn laws, it is a very strong impression with them, that wheat would be lower than it is now; that it would revert to the price at which we unfortunately found it during the autumn of last year, 4 *s.* and 4 *s.* 6 *d.* a bushel.

201

13225. Then prudent men will not take a lease, from the uncertainty of the price of agricultural produce?—Certainly not.

13226. Is not steadiness in price more important than anything else to a man about to take a farm? When a person is about to engage in farming, if he could feel assured that he could have a steady price, would it much matter to him whether that price was high or low, if he could only make his calculations with certainty upon it?—I think it would make a great difference. If you had a farm to let, and you could assure the tenant 60*s.* a quarter for his wheat, he would be much more disposed to enter upon a lease of 21 years than he would be if you assured him only of a price of 40*s.* a quarter.

13227. Is it not very important that the price of agricultural produce should be steady?—I think it of very great importance; but I think it would make a great difference in the inclination of a tenant to take a farm upon a 21 years' lease, whether you assured him of a price of 60*s.* or a price of 40*s.* If you assured him of 60*s.* he would have no difficulty in taking a lease, but if you assured him only of 40*s.* he would have a difficulty; because we have found that our expenses do not fall in a like proportion to the price of wheat.

13228. Then if a farmer knows that with wheat at 40*s.* he cannot pay the expenses, he will not engage in farming at all?—Yes, he would; the trade of a farmer is unlike other trades; in fact we are fit for nothing else; if we are brought up to be farmers we can turn our hands to no other occupation. The consequence is, that we must either lead an idle life, or risk our capital in farming; and but for that it would be foolish to talk of agricultural distress; but you see men constantly engaging in farms with almost a moral certainty that they must decrease their capital by it.

13229. Mr. *Attwood.*] Is that what you have witnessed for many years?—Yes.

13230. Mr. *Clay.*] The question is now, not with regard to a farmer who is already in the occupation of his farm, whether he would like 60*s.* better than 40*s.*, but with regard to a man about to engage in a farm, whether, if he felt assured of a certain price, it is not comparatively unimportant to him what that price would be. When you say that a farmer would take a farm, although the price of wheat was lower than would remunerate him, do you mean that he would take it with a certainty of loss?—Practical experience shows that he would. Farms are taken every day upon terms which must be a loss to the farmer.

13231. Are they not taken upon a calculation that the price will rise?—Yes.

13232. But if he was sure that they would not rise, would he take it with the certainty of a loss?—Not for a lease.

13233. Then it comes to this, that if the price was steady a man would be enabled to tell beforehand whether there would or would not be a loss of money by the farm?—Undoubtedly.

13234. Under the circumstances of tenure that you have mentioned, of farms being now let for one or two years, you think that if you threw up your farm somebody would be found to take it?—Yes, I think there would.

13235. Mr. *Miles.*] Can you grow wheat at 32*s.* a quarter?—No.

13236. Therefore if you were certain to have wheat fixed at a price of from 32*s.* to 36*s.*, could you in the Weald of Sussex grow wheat?—Certainly not.

13237. Mr. *Attwood.*] Is it a fact that if the steady price that you have been asked about should be a low price below the cost of the article, it would carry certain ruin to a great proportion of the land in the country?—Certainly.

13238. In the heavy land in the county of Sussex are all the labourers now employed?—I am not in a situation to speak very positively upon that subject. As far as my experience goes I should say they are not fully employed; they are much more employed than they have been of late years.

13239. During the last five or six years have you heard and known that there has been a great surplus of labourers upon the heavy soils?—I have both heard and known it to be the fact.

13240. Would you ascribe the advance of the poor-rate to that want of employment of the labourers?—Certainly.

13241. Then you would not ascribe it entirely to the establishment of the beer-shops?—I think that a great part of the apparent surplus of the population in agricultural parishes arose from the conduct of the men themselves;

Mr. *T. Boniface.*

3 May 1836.

which, under the old system of poor laws, and particularly since the establishment of beer-shops, has been such that a man felt it to be his interest not to have more of such persons about him than he was obliged to have.

13242. How long have the beer-shops been established?—Since 1828, I think.

13243. Did not the poor-rates begin to increase in a great degree from that period?—They did; from 1828 or 1829 up to 1833, they increased in a much greater proportion than I ever recollect them to have done.

13244. Do you think that at the low prices which agricultural produce has borne the farmers could employ the quantity of labour upon the heavy lands that they used to employ in dearer times?—Certainly not.

13245. Therefore the fall of prices is what you ascribe the want of employment of labourers in a great measure to?—Yes.

13246. And therefore you ascribe the increase of poor-rates in a measure to that?—Yes; but I combine with that the misconduct of the men themselves.

13247. When you ascribe the growth of the poor-rates to the beer-shops, you do not mean to say that that was the sole or the principal cause?—I think it is a principal cause; I think it is one leading cause.

13248. Do you think that if agricultural produce were to rise the farmers would employ all those labourers again?—Not all of them; they would not employ the men of bad character.

13249. You were asked about that calculation of the quantity of sheep supposed to have been destroyed by the rot, and you stated that you had derived it from some publication that you had seen; did you ever hear of any official publication by Parliament of the number of sheep in this kingdom?—No.

13250. Therefore the source from which you took your account is the best that is attainable?—It may have been; I have no doubt that it was from some periodical publication, but I do not recollect what; and consequently I am not prepared to say that it was the best.

13251. Would your own experience of farming lead you to think that that calculation, that one-fourth of the sheep of this kingdom had been prematurely destroyed, is correct?—My own experience would not; for this reason, that I reside in a county where the rot was not so fatal as it was in the west of England; but from the general report from those counties, and from the high price of sheep since that period, I cannot say that I think it may not be very wide of the real truth, although it appears an immense proportion.

13252. All your general inquiries and information would lead you to think that calculation not wide of the truth?—I should not be surprised.

13253. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] Were you rightly understood to say that the wages of late had been maintained at a height of price not justified by the price of corn, but necessary with respect to the decent maintenance of the labourer and his family?—I have so stated.

13254. Supposing the wages of the labourer to be properly determined by the price of corn, and that 7 *s.* or 7 *s.* 6 *d.* per bushel would justify 12 *s.* a week to the labourer, and that 5 *s.* a bushel would justify 8 *s.* a week to the labourer, in which state would you say that the labourer is best off, receiving 12 *s.* a week and paying 7 *s.*, or receiving 8 *s.* a week and paying 5 *s.*?—Receiving the highest wages. His master would be in a better situation, and consequently he would derive many advantages from the improved situation of his employer; and, on the contrary, every farthing that the employer can possibly save in times of depression, he will save in the wages of labour, because over that he has a more direct power than he has over any other expenditure.

13255. Then does not it therefore follow necessarily that the present wages are paid in a great degree out of the capital of the farmer?—There can be no question about it; and I have no doubt it extends itself very much. I have had opportunities of seeing the north part of England, in Northumberland, and in the western part of England and in Pembrokeshire, and I find the thing operating precisely in the same manner; wages are paid in reference to the means of living of the labourer, and not in reference to the value of labour. They could be reduced in every part that I have seen.

13256. Is the subject of emigration from agricultural districts to manufacturing districts a matter of much conversation amongst your neighbours?—Not much; foreign emigration is; and I think that anything that will facilitate

foreign

203

Mr. T. Boniface.

3 May 1830.

foreign emigration will be a very great benefit to us, and the west of England, where we have a surplus population; and although it does not appear from the Poor Law Amendment Bill that we have a surplus population, I think it is clear that we have. I will mention a circumstance to illustrate that: I was the other day in a general shop where they sell grocery and Irish bacon, and clothing, and in fact all the common necessaries of life; and I inquired of the proprietor of the shop his opinion as to the condition of the labouring men generally since the operation of the Poor Law Bill. I said to him, "Do you find that they lay out much less money with you than they were in the habit of doing?" He said, "No; I do not think they do a great deal." I knew that they did at the beer-shop and at the public-house, because I have an opportunity of seeing in passing. He said, "I do not think there is much less; but probably I can account for it in a manner that you do not expect." He said, "I have had several guineas come of late."

13257. Then you infer from that that there has been a hoarding of gold?—To a very moderate extent; but still I think it accounts in a degree for the present appearance of the small surplus of labour. I think they may have had some trifling earnings upon which they have fallen back; and in the course of a few years I believe that we shall see the surplus of labour again increase in a degree, but not to the former extent.

13258. *Chairman.*] It is some time since guineas were in circulation?—It is; and I was much surprised at the mention of the fact; but I have no doubt of the fact, as the man who mentioned it to me is a highly respectable man.

13259. Mr. *Heathcote.*] Do you think that by the operation of the poor law many persons who were formerly employed upon the roads are now employed upon the land, and improving the land very much?—Certainly, I think so.

13260. Do not you apprehend that if that goes on to any great extent it will materially increase the produce of corn throughout the country?—I would answer that relatively to the price of wheat. If the price of wheat is remunerating I think it will.

13261. If so many more people are now employed upon the cultivation of farms, will not that tend to increase the quantity of wheat?—They will not be so employed unless the price of wheat alters, if the price of wheat is not remunerating to the grower.

13262. If the price of wheat goes up to a fair price you think a great increase will be produced in consequence of it?—Unquestionably.

13263. Sir *Charles Burrell.*] In your opinion have not the poor-rates in Sussex been very much increased in consequence of the practice prevailing in some of the parishes of paying part of the labour out of the rates?—Yes, I think they have, to a certain extent.

13264. Do not you think to a very injurious extent?—In some parishes; it depended upon the circumstances of the occupiers of the parish.

13265. What do you believe will be the probable effect, or the possible effect, of the expected issuing of an order from the Poor Law Commissioners to put a stop to all relief to out-parishioners?—I believe that it will occasion very great distress in the case of existing large families, and that it will have the effect of throwing a man with a large family out of the labour market. I would not employ a man with a large family if I had one. I cannot afford to pay him a higher rate of wages than I can any man equally able to do the work. I should say to him, "You have been a very good servant, but you will be now badly off; and I am sure that if you are badly off in your circumstances, and badly fed in consequence, you will be to me a bad servant." And I consequently discharge that man and take a man that is less encumbered.

13266. Do not you consider that there has been another very injurious thing which has led very much to improvident marriages, the system of paying a young, strong, healthy single labourer lower wages than a married man, merely because the married man had encumbrances upon him?—Certainly; there can be no question but that that has been the practical result in the neighbourhood in which I reside.

13267. And that they have married in consequence?—I know instances where they have threatened to do it.

13268. Have you ever heard of an instance of a man marrying a widow with a parcel of children with a view to bettering himself through the allowances

Mr. *T. Boniface.*

3 May 1836.

that would come from the parish to those children?—I know an instance of a man marrying a widow with children, at least a girl with two illegitimate children, and I know that he immediately made application for a continuance of their pay, which was refused; and I know that he was very much disappointed in consequence.

13269. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] Then would not you say that those cases are extreme cases; can any general inference be drawn from cases of that kind?—I have no hesitation in saying that marriages have constantly occurred from the fact of the single men being paid much less wages than the married men. I believe that the difference of the wages of married and single men has had the effect of inducing men imprudently to marry.

13270. You made an observation with regard to the currency, the change in which you think had a prejudicial effect. It is presumed that you must have alluded to the difficulty of obtaining accommodation now to what farmers formerly experienced upon their stock in hand?—I alluded particularly to the contracted currency, which of course will always have the effect of depreciating the price of wheat with other commodities. I find that the two periods at which we have had the highest prices were in 1600, in the time of Elizabeth, on the discovery of the American mines, and again, during the Bank Restriction Act, and the immediate rise of prices subsequent to 1822, when we had an increased circulation.

13271. You have heard of the expression of Dr. Johnson in one of his writings, that the reason why eggs were extremely cheap in Scotland was, that pence were very few?—Yes.

13272. When money is not abundant goods will fall in price?—Undoubtedly.

13273. Then in that respect you think that in proportion to the population of England, and the exertions made in agriculture and manufactures, and the various sources by which wealth is created, that the contracted circulation of the country, as well as the bullion currency, is insufficient for the wants of the country?—Particularly in the agricultural districts. I have always thought that the one pound notes were especially the circulating medium of the agricultural districts. Farmers know but little of the negociation of bills and such matters, but depend entirely upon the circulating medium. If that is contracted, of course the man's credit, if he be not a man of property, immediately becomes questioned.

13274. Do not you think that the present state of the currency has a particularly evil influence upon the little farmers, who immediately almost that they have got their harvest in, are obliged to thresh out to send to market, in order to pay their labourers; whereas, when there was greater facility of obtaining money from the country banks upon their stacks and so on, they could pay their labourers and wait for the market, instead of glutting the market as they do, and throwing themselves into the hands of the millers?—Unfortunately the difficulty is not confined to small farmers, but it extends generally to the farming interest. If a man who keeps an account at a country banker's, and consequently it may fairly be supposed that the banker knows somewhat of the farmer's circumstances, if he applies to his banker for a loan as a convenience, it will be advanced to him; but directly you reduce that man, and he applies for a loan as a necessity, immediately it will be refused to him. I wish to make that distinction as to the difference between the inclination of the banker to make an advance, as a means of accommodation, and to do it upon an application arising from necessity.

13275. Do you think that the joint-stock banks will have a beneficial influence on country districts, as giving a greater circulation of money?—I know nothing at all of the operation of them, because I have not lived near one; but upon principle I have no doubt they will be the means of increasing the money.

13276. With respect to the beer-shops, do you or do you not believe that the beer-shops have tended greatly to corrupt the lower orders of society?—I am glad to have that question put to me; because having resided in a neighbourhood which unfortunately was a scene of rioting, I have had some experience upon the subject. I have taken every opportunity of informing myself upon the subject, and I have no hesitation in saying that it is impossible for me to represent to the Committee the evils that have arisen out of the beer-shops. Every fire that we had in the neighbourhood, that I have known anything of,

205

every riot and every disturbance, the origin of it has always been traced to a beer-shop. In the case of Mr. Oliver's fire the man was traced to a beer-shop; in the case of Mr. Amos's fire the man came from a beer-shop; and in numberless other cases the riots and burnings have emanated from those places.

13277. Have not you heard that the gangs of fowl-stealers and sheep-stealers, as well as poachers, are in the habit of congregating at the beer-shops?—Undoubtedly I have heard it, and I know that such is the fact. It is impossible for me to convey to the Committee my sense of the evils of those places. I have no interest in speaking so strongly, but I say it from a moral conviction, that we never can return to that healthy state of society that we desire, so long as it is impossible for the poor man to brew his beer at home, and so long as he is tempted to enter those places.

13278. Do not you believe that if the Government of that day had been induced to take off half of the malt tax, by way of a boon to the people, that a great many of the agricultural labourers would have been able to brew at home in a small way?—I have never considered the subject in reference to a reduction of half of the malt duty. If the whole of it had been taken off I have no doubt that the great difference in the price of the commodity would have been the means of inducing them to do it. If half were reduced I think that many would, but still a great difficulty would exist. As long as the price of malt is dear, the poor man will be debarred from the possibility of having beer at home, and just so long will the temptation to enter those places be irresistible.

13279. You recollect that before that Beer Shop Act passed many of the shopkeepers were in the habit of brewing small beer, and selling it to labourers. Do not you believe that the effect of that tax upon them having prevented in a great measure that beer being brewed, has been a very serious injury to the labourers?—I think it has.

13280. Do you believe that if they were allowed, as before, to brew small beer and sell it to the labourers, to take with them in their bottles out to the fields, that that might be one means of lessening their frequenting the beer-houses in the way that they now do?—In a very trifling degree, I think; I have a very strong feeling, that so long as the price of malt is prohibitory to the poor man, so long we shall experience the difficulties that arise from that malt tax.

13281. Have you ever considered whether by taking off the tax upon leather the farmers have benefitted materially?—I think not.

13282. Do you think they have benefitted at all?—No, I am not at all aware that they have.

13283. Do you think that has been a great loss to the revenue of the State without any benefit to the public?—That is my impression.

13284. *Chairman.*] Is it your opinion that taking off the malt duty would be the only measure of relief that the Legislature can afford the farmer?—No; I think it would be a great means of relief to the English farmers if we could rid ourselves of the labourers from Ireland. The labourers come over from Ireland and get employment round London and in the large towns of the kingdom, as bricklayers' labourers, and such work, which I think would be undertaken by our labourers if they were not opposed by the Irish in the market; and their remaining at home would have the effect of their consuming more of the Irish produce, and we should have less of that to contend with.

13285. Then you propose to do that by giving poor laws to Ireland?—Yes.

13286. Is there any other measure of relief that the Legislature could give to the farmers?—Yes; the increase of the circulating medium, which I have before stated.

13287. Anything else?—I am not aware of anything else that would have any decided influence upon the condition of the farmers.

13288. Supposing the malt tax was repealed, do not you think that the brewer could still brew beer in the same proportion, cheaper than the labourer could do, as he does now?—I do not think he could; I think that in case of a repeal of the malt tax the labourer would buy his barley of his master, and be his own maltster and brewer; consequently, I think he would then be able to brew it cheaper, and as he would think, better; for they all have a pride in brewing at home.

13289. Do you think it is possible for any one to malt barley profitably in a small quantity?—Yes.

13290. Supposing the repeal of the malt tax was to involve a great reduction

Mr. *T. Boniface.*
3 May 1836.

of the duty on foreign barley, do you think it would be advantageous?—I confess, that if I had the power to repeal the malt tax I would do it at all risks except one, and that is the risk of the present corn laws.

13291. Do not you think that we owe, to a certain extent, the protection we have under the present corn laws to the burdens that we bear, and amongst other burdens to the burden of the malt tax?—If I had the power I would repeal it at all risks, save that.

13292. You were asked a question about an order that the Commissioners of the Poor Law were about to issue, with regard to able-bodied labourers; are you acquainted with any union in the county of Sussex where that order has been already made?—I understood that the order was to commence upon the 2d of May. The Union, with the guardians of which I am acquainted, but which I am not a rate-payer to, is the Union of Hampnet, and I have no hesitation in saying that you will not find that Union's like hardly in the kingdom. The guardians are men of property and intelligence, with the Duke of Richmond as the president. They generally reside in the neighbourhood of Chichester, and they are persons of character and influence. The consequence of all this is, that they would make less difficulties than men of a different caste; therefore I have had an opportunity of judging of the Poor Law Bill in its best light; but I have no hesitation in saying, that the distress it will occasion in cases of existing large families, will be very great indeed, provided all out-doors relief be stopped.

13293. But supposing you were told that this practice has been actually in force in a considerable number of Unions in the country with advantage to the labourers, should you then anticipate the danger from its introduction that you now do?—I confess that I should be egotist enough to adhere to my own opinion as to the result.

Mercurii, 4° die Maii, 1836.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Shaw Lefevre.	Sir James Graham.
Mr. Loch.	The O'Conor Don.
Marquis of Chandos.	Mr. Bingham Baring.
Mr. Wodehouse.	Mr. Heathcote.
Mr. William Miles.	Mr. R. Clive.
Mr. Sanford.	Sir Robert Price.
Mr. Evans.	Sir Charles Burrell.
Mr. Cayley.	Mr. Morrison.
Mr. W. Gordon.	

MR. SHAW LEFEVRE, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *William Crowther,* called in; and further Examined.

Mr. *W. Crowther.*
4 May 1836.

13293. Marquis of *Chandos.*] HOW much land do you hold in the county of Warwick?—Four hundred acres.

13294. What is that, clay land or light land?—Partly clay land and partly light land.

13295. Is that clay hard thick clay, or clay mixed with loam?—It is hard thick clay; there are 400 acres; part of it is meadow land; there are about 200 acres of clay land.

13296. Is that clay land arable?—All arable; all the grass land is clay: the principal part of the grass land is on the banks of the Avon.

13297. You feed upon it?—Yes; I never mow any of that.

13298. With respect to that clay farm, do you consider that in as good a state, as to profit, or a worse state, than it was three years ago?—I should think not; it cannot have been, whilst wheat was at 5*s.* a bushel, as it is now according

ing to the present price. I should think that my profits will be as good as they were three years ago, and they will be more, because I have drained it since then.

13299. Then that arable farm of yours is in as good a state as to profits as it was three years ago?—As it is now the profit would be as good as it was three years ago, with wheat at 60*s.* a quarter. I do not recollect what was the price of wheat three years ago.

13300. Are you acquainted with any farmers in the neighbourhood of that farm of yours, in the county of Warwick?—Yes, a few; but as I do not reside there I am not acquainted with so many as if I did. I only go there once or twice a week, but I know some of them.

13301. Your acquaintance with the farmers in the neighbourhood of that particular farm is not sufficient to enable you to give an opinion as to the state of agriculture in the county of Warwick?—No; I can give an opinion as to a farmer in the same village as mine, in Hillborough; he is close to me; I am sure he is making money, because my son-in-law is an attorney, and knows he is a monied man.

13302. That you consider a proof that he is making money?—I do; he rents his farm rather low, I believe.

13303. How long has he occupied the farm in that way?—I suppose eight or ten years; before I went there.

13304. Has he a lease, or is he a tenant at will?—I think he is a tenant at will.

13305. What sized farm?—I suppose about 300 acres; it is not so large as mine.

13306. Is that a clay farm?—It is all clay; he has no turnip land as I have upon mine.

13307. A cold clay farm?—A cold clay farm.

13308. Can you undertake to say, from your knowledge of that individual as well as of the state of that cold clay farm, that he is making money upon it?—I am nearly sure he is. I have heard him say to that effect.

13309. Has he much poor-rate to pay?—My farm is rated much higher than his, because it is better land; but our poor-rates are very low in that neighbourhood. My poor-rates do not amount to 2*s.* an acre.

13310. What is the rent per acre of your farm?—A guinea and a half, with 10 per cent. abated.

13311. What is the rent of his farm?—I do not know, but I understand that it is low; and the reason that I understand that is, that we had some talk about the poor-rate. There was some talk about how much better my land was, and we had then some talk about the rent; but he never told me exactly what it was.

13312. Extending your recollections beyond that farm and your own farm, are you able to give an opinion as to the state of the farmers in the county of Warwick, whether they are or are not in difficulties at the present moment?—I should think not in difficulties, but they certainly are not so well off as they were six or seven years ago, that must be clear; but I do not think they are in difficulties, because they are men of property, and they must have had property before.

13313. Are you prepared to say that they are not in difficulties?—I think not, because there was a farm to be let close to mine, and it was immediately taken at the same rent, although the other person had failed upon it; but a most excellent farmer adjoining has taken it immediately at the same rent.

13314. Are you acquainted with Mr. Chandos Leigh?—Not at all, not residing there.

13315. But you know some farmers in the county of Warwick?—Yes, I do.

13316. Here is a petition from a vast number of owners and occupiers of land in the county of Warwick?—I stated yesterday that I should be much more capable of speaking as to the people in Worcestershire and Gloucestershire than in Warwickshire, because I have only had a farm in Warwickshire a few years, and not residing there I do not know many of them. But with respect to the farmers in Worcestershire and Gloucestershire that have signed the petition, I have no doubt that there are many of them that are keeping two or three hunters, and living very luxuriously.

13317. How many racers do you keep?—I do not keep any racers; I keep a good many hunters.

Mr. *W. Crowther.*

4 May 1836.

13318. You are a great sportsman, are not you?—I do not hunt at all myself.

13319. But you attend the races?—Our own, certainly; they are in my own field, in our own parish.

13320. They are your own races?—I presume they are, for they are called Mr. Crowther's races. I breed a good many good horses, and I sell them at high prices, and they generally win a little with me at our races.

13321. You breed horses, and you make a good deal of money from the sale of horses?—I do.

13322. Consequently, besides the profits of your farm, you make a profit by other means?—Certainly not; they are the profits of my farm; I breed them on the farm.

13323. With reference to the races, do a great many of the farmers of Worcestershire and Gloucestershire attend them?—I think very many indeed.

13324. They are in that state to be able to keep thorough bred horses?—Some of them; not thorough bred; we do not allow thorough bred to run, but cock-tails.

13325. Are the individuals who run horses there tenants, or occupiers of their own land?—I should not have said anything about it if they had been people that occupy their own soil, because it could be presumed that they can afford it; but my meaning was tenants who signed the petition, who rent their farms completely the same as I do.

13326. Do they run horses?—Generally; I do not know many landowners that do.

13327. It is a grazing district?—It is.

13328. At what age do the farmers generally run those horses?—Three, four or five years old.

13329. Mr. *Cayley.*] Are the Committee to understand that those persons keep those horses to run, or that they run them at three or four years old as a speculation to get a better price for them?—That is my meaning; they run them at our races, and I do not think they keep them for running anywhere else.

13330. If they happen to win then they sell much better?—Certainly.

13331. Marquis of *Chandos.*] A great many people attend those races?—Yes.

13332. Several hundreds?—Yes.

13333. More than that?—Yes, considerably.

13334. Will you state, as nearly as you can, what was the last attendance; do you think it amounted to nearly 1,000 people?—I am no judge of the numbers; they may be as large as attend some of the provincial races in our neighbourhood that are regular races; as large, perhaps, as would attend at Tewkesbury and Gloucester.

13335. Mr. *Evans.*] What is the amount of the prizes?—Mr. Holland gives a silver cup; I do not know the value of it. The other prizes are stakes of a few sovereigns each, and perhaps ten added by subscription of the people of the neighbourhood.

13336. Do you yourself give a prize?—No; I give the use of the field, and that is pretty well.

13337. Mr. *Cayley.*] Are they races of old standing?—No; they began a little at a time, and they have increased perhaps about eight or ten years. They originated in a party of two or three gentlemen saying, "I will run my horse against yours." Most people give a party at their farms once in the year, and it originated in their saying that they would run their horses against one another; and I happening to have a large field, and very level, they chose to run their horses in those fields. I pay nothing at all.

13338. Marquis of *Chandos.*] Do you find the races fall off?—Not at all; there were more last year than ever; they originated in very little, and they get more and more.

13339. And you find that the farmers there are as well able to keep those horses as ever?—Certainly; I know no difference.

13340. Will you look at this petition from the county of Warwick, and state whether you know any of those names?—[*The petition being shown to the Witness.*]—I know a John Johnson; I do not know whether this is the same; but I do not see any other names that I know.

13341. Therefore the Committee must take your acquaintance with the county

209

Mr. *W. Crowther.*

4 May 1836.

county of Warwick as confined to the farm that you hold yourself, and your neighbours?—Yes, generally.

13342. Therefore your evidence of farming in the county of Warwick extends only to those two farms?—No; I know a great many farmers near Stratford-on-Avon, and I have not seen one of their names. I know a Mr. Robins; I dare say he has signed it, for he is an agricultural man, and I believe him to be a man of wealth; he is a tenant to the Earl of Warwick.

13343. At Somerville Aston have you had permission to break up any grass land?—During the first lease we had permission to break up a large quantity of grass land, and then Lord Somerville granted a lease, allowing a large quantity of pasture land to be broken up and to be planted with flax, and at the end of that lease flax was restricted; but I had left off sowing it long before the lease was up; flax became of low value; neither does it do to plant flax upon anything but fresh land; it exhausts the soil as it returns no manure.

13344. Have you broken up any fresh land lately?—Not since this lease; I have laid down a good deal. I took this lease in 1806, and consequently the first lease was up in 1827, and I must have been about 12 years in the second lease.

13345. You were understood yesterday to say that one of your sons is settled in America, in the carpet manufacture; do you derive any profit from that?—No; my son has the sole profit; he has gone into it now.

13346. How long?—This month; in April. He has not come of age till now.

13347. Have you in any way derived a profit from any manufacture of any sort in America?—None whatever now.

13348. Nor in Kidderminster?—No, none; I never had; I had something to do with that in America till my son was of age; a person went from Kidderminster and established himself in America, and I advanced him some money.

13349. How many years had you anything to do with that manufacture in America?—About three years.

13350. It was in a very prosperous state?—It is now.

13351. And it has been all those three years?—Yes; the first year of establishing it was not very profitable, for he was not allowed then to take out machinery from England; and there has been a bill lately passed which allows us to take machinery out.

13352. But of course during that period even you derived some profit out of it?—Certainly.

13353. And therefore you have had profits of that manufactory as well as the profits of the farming?—I have invested every shilling of the profits in the trade; it has cost a great deal to establish and carry on the manufacture; it has taken more money to keep it on than we got by it, because it increases so; but still it is very flourishing.

13354. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] You stated that when you began farming, you were an occupier of 70 *l.* a year, and now you occupy between 2,000 and 3,000 acres; was your accumulation of capital larger in any great degree in any one than in the other periods, dividing your term into three periods?—I think I made a great deal of money when wheat brought 15 *s.* or 20 *s.* a bushel; it was like coining money then.

13355. Was your accumulation of capital then much greater than in the middle part and in the concluding part of the term?—I think the concluding period of my occupation has been the most profitable; but probably that may have arisen from the land becoming in a better state of cultivation; I think my profits have been accumulating higher and higher, for I have drained every field of the parish, consequently my profits have accumulated more, because I was laying out money then which is now returning.

13356. Bearing in mind the extent to which you have invested your capital, do you think that your profits in the course of the last 10 years have been greater than in the first 10 years?—Certainly greater in the last 10; for the first 10 I did not make much profit; I was improving the land. When a person takes a new farm, he ought to farm the first part of the time so as to make money the last part.

13357. To what part of the term do you allude, when you speak of wheat being

Mr. *W. Crowther.*

4 May 1836.

being 15 *s.* a bushel?—I do not know when it was; I think I sold wheat once at about 1 *l.* a bushel.

13358. Were not you gaining money fast at that time?—Yes, I was; but it did not last long. Those few years we were making money very fast; but it did not last 10 years.

13359. Are the Committee to understand that you have made more money in the interval between 1825 and 1835, than you did between 1806 and 1816?—Yes, I have, certainly.

13360. Mr. *Cayley.*] Was your farm in a very bad state when you entered upon it?—Yes, it wanted all draining; the land lay in high ridges, and it was all rushes in the furrows; perhaps three or four yards on each side of the furrows bore nothing. Now I have drained it completely, and the furrows bear the best crops.

13361. Supposing, instead of entering upon your farm in a bad state under the high prices of 1806, you had entered upon it in that state 10 years ago, and you had not had the advantage of more than the prices of the last 10 years, what would have been your condition now?—I do not think I should then have dared to lay out so much money upon it.

13362. Mr. *Evans.*] Have not you particular advantages in having the entire of that parish in your own hands?—Certainly.

13363. Which gave you the advantage of employing the labourers and diminishing the poor-rates?—A very great advantage; I do not think that farm could be farmed so beneficially in three farms as in one farm.

13364. Therefore you had advantages that your neighbours had not?—I had, certainly.

13365. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] You stated that if wheat was to rise to 60 *s.* a quarter, you should be prepared to give an increase of 200 *l.* a year?—That is the condition of my lease.

13366. Supposing that wheat should henceforth bear the price of 5 *s.* 6 *d.* a bushel, and other grain in proportion, what reduction of rent should you conceive yourself in equity entitled to?—It would not require to fall so fast as that, because every thing else sinks with it; but I have no abatement of rent below 60 *s.* a quarter.

13367. Do you think that if the price of wheat goes back to 5 *s.* 6 *d.* a bushel, and the price of other grain falls in proportion to it, that you shall be able to continue at your present hire without reduction?—Certainly; I have had no reduction; I have applied for none. I am convinced that if I were to apply to Lord Somerville for a reduction of rent, he would make it immediately.

13368. Have you prepared a statement of the receipts and expenditure upon an acre of your heavy clay land?—In obedience to the direction of the Committee, I have prepared an estimate of the receipts and expenditure of an acre of my heavy clay land for one course of crops, taking wheat at 5 *s.*, and other grain in proportion; and, although it may not be so exact as if I had my books to refer to, I have no doubt it is substantially correct.

[*The same was delivered in, and is as follows:*]

RECEIPTS.

	£.	s.	d.
One year fallow (sheep keep)	–	5	–
Ditto oats, 36 bushels at 3 *s.*	5	8	–
Ditto half clover (fed off with sheep)	2	–	–
Ditto half beans, 12 bushels at 3 *s.* 6 *d.*	2	2	–
Ditto wheat, 22 bushels at 5 *s.*	5	10	–
£.	15	5	–

EXPENDITURE.

	£.	s.	d.
Four years' rent	4	–	–
Ditto – poor-rates	–	4	–
Ditto – county-rate *	–	2	6
Ditto – church and highway-rate	–	2	–

Seed

* The county-rates are increasing almost every year; but I have no doubt, if the rate-payers had a voice in the expenditure, it would not be the case.

211

Mr. *W. Crowther.*

4 May 1836.

	£.	s.	d.
Seed wheat, 3 bushels	–	15	–
Ditto oats, 5 bushels	–	15	–
Ditto beans, half an acre, 2 bushels	–	7	–
Ditto clover, half an acre, 8 lbs. at 8 *d.*	–	5	4
Fallow, once ploughed at 16*s.*, thrice at 12*s.* each	2	12	–
Clover sward once ploughed for wheat	–	16	–
Drilling and harrowing-in oats	–	3	–
Ditto – – ditto – – wheat	–	4	–
Hoeing wheat twice	–	4	6
Weeding oats	–	1	–
Hoeing beans, half an acre	–	3	6
Reaping wheat	–	7	–
Harvesting do.	–	2	6
Thrashing do.	–	7	–
Mowing oats	–	1	6
Harvesting do.*	–	3	–
Mowing beans	–	1	6
Harvesting do.	–	3	–
Dunging half an acre (labour only)	–	6	–
House-keeping	1	–	–
Interest of capital	–	16	–
£.	14	2	4

The repairs of implements are taken out, because I have charged for the labour what it could be hired to be done for.

W. Crowther.

13369. Mr. *Cayley.*] You were understood to say that the proportion of oats to wheat used to be about one-half; but you put it at 24 *s.* to 40 *s.*?—Yes, I have, for oats have in the last few years borne a much larger proportion than they used to do.

13370. For how many years?—The last six or seven years.

13371. *Chairman.*] Are those calculations formed upon your clay land farm?—Yes, I have stated that it is upon the clay farm.

13372. Mr. *Sanford.*] There is no tithe here?—I have none; Lord Somerville lets it to me tithe free.

13373. If there is any tithe paid by any one it is paid out of the 20 *s.* rent?—Yes; I pay about 25 *s.* or 26 *s.* an acre for that parish. I was desired to make the calculation upon the poor clay land part of it; and I have done so; but the whole of the best part of the land is better worth 30 *s.* an acre than the worst part is worth 20 *s.*

13374. Some of this clay land is pasture land?—A great deal.

13375. And that of course is worth more than 20 *s.*?—Worth more than 30 *s.*

13376. It is grazing land?—Yes.

13377. Will it fatten a bullock?—It will fatten a cow.

13378. You can graze heifers upon it?—Yes.

13379. Can you turn out sheep upon it?—Yes.

13380. It is sufficiently sound?—Now it is, because it is drained; but before, in wet seasons, there was a danger of rotting the sheep.

13381. And that land is worth 30 *s.* an acre?—Yes, more.

13382. Therefore that will reduce the rent of the remaining 600 acres of arable very considerably?—Yes, I give 20 *s.* round for the poor clay; but part of the arable clay is very good.

13383. Mr. *Cayley.*] Does your land produce 22 bushels of wheat upon the average?—Yes, I have no doubt it does.

13384. Do you think it produces 36 bushels of oats upon the average?—Yes; some of it is very good land.

13385. It is not poor clay?—Certainly not all of it.

13386. Mr. *Miles.*] But it is the worst clay upon your farm?—It is; but it is not a poor clay. I know that there is clay in Shropshire near the Clee hills; much poorer clay.

13387. Mr. *Sanford.*] Will it make bricks?—Yes, and tiles.

* There is nothing charged for thrashing oats or beans, the eating of the straw being equivalent; r for delivering the corn to market, the chaff and rowens being considered to pay for it.

Mr. *James Church*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *James Church*.

4 May 1836.

13388. *Chairman.*] WHERE do you reside?—At the Tower of Sark, in the county of Dumfries.

13389. Is that upon the borders of Cumberland?—Yes.

13390. You are a farmer?—I am.

13391. What is the extent of your farm?—About 650 acres, the farm that I reside upon.

13392. Is that your property, or do you rent it?—I rent it from his Grace the Duke of Buccleugh.

13393. What is the nature of the soil upon that farm?—A great deal of it was a black surface upon a clay.

13394. Principally wet?—Yes.

13395. Have you done much towards draining that farm?—I brought a great deal of it into cultivation about 25 or 30 years ago, and drained it at my own expense with stones, those were failing; and about two years ago I got permission from the Duke of Buccleugh to drain with tiles, at his expense, allowing him 5 per cent. interest; the expenditure not to exceed 10 *d.* per rod of 18 feet; all above that, including cartage, was to be paid by myself.

13396. Then the Duke of Buccleugh pays for the draining which is done by you, exclusive of the cartage?—Yes; but many drains I have cut cost, instead of 10 *d.*, 2 *s.* or 3 *s.* or 4 *s.* a rod, when we come to springs; and I have to be at that expense myself.

13397. Mr. *Loch.*] What is the limitation in point of amount?—No limitation. I have spent 900 *l.* for his Grace in that manner.

13398. And what of your own?—200 *l.* or 250 *l.*, besides my horse-work.

13399. *Chairman.*] How are those drains cut?—Diagonally across the furrows.

13400. How deep are those drains cut?—About 2 ½ feet, upon an average.

13401. Are they done with tiles or stones?—With tiles.

13402. Do they fill-in the earth at the top of the tiles?—We put the surface-earth on, and do all we can to keep the clay out of the drains.

13403. And drains so laid will take off the spring-water as well as the surface-water?—Yes, I have often found springs in consequence of cutting those drains, and then I am obliged to widen and cut the drains much deeper; even as deep as 8 or 10 feet.

13404. Did you ever see any furrow-draining practised in Scotland?—Not to any great extent.

13405. Do you consider that this cross draining is an improvement upon the furrow-draining?—Yes, I have seen it to a great extent upon my neighbour, Sir James Graham's property.

13406. What is the advantage of it?—I think it is a great advantage upon our land, which has a porous bottom, like a great part of the land in the west of Scotland and in Cumberland; and I find the water gets in and goes down the furrow into the drain. If you miss a furrow it will stand with water; but if you carry an angle through the furrow there is a crevice every here and there to take the water.

13407. Mr. *Loch.*] Sir James Graham has drained to a considerable extent?—His tenants have drained to a great extent.

13408. And he has made liberal allowances to them?—Yes, he has given them every encouragement.

13409. And that has produced a very great improvement?—An immense improvement upon his estate; and that induced me to commence.

13410. Sir James began to show an example in your district?—Yes, some years before we practised it.

13411. He has laid down a good deal into grass?—There is a great deal in grass; but draining is as useful in arable land as in grass.

13412. *Chairman.*] When did you first take this farm?—In 1806.

13413. What was the condition of the farm when you first took it?—It was most of it moss, and a great deal of it had never been ploughed; it had not an enclosure upon it, nor yet a road. The Duke of Buccleugh gave me that at a moderate rent, and I set to work and ploughed most of it, and brought it into cultivation, by taking two crops of oats and liming it. I ploughed it with a thin

furrow

213

furrow and limed it, and then took two crops of oats in succession, and got great crops.

13414. Mr. *Loch.*] How much lime did you put upon it?—Very little; because if you lime it too much you injure it, and it produces chickweed. I put about 60 or 70 imperial bushels an acre.

13415. What did it cost you?—At the kilns it would cost about 3 *d.* the imperial bushel, exclusive of drawing.

13416. That was your own money expended?—Solely.

13417. The landlord did not assist you?—No; only gave me thorns to make hedges, and I did all the enclosures myself. His Grace kept the hedges clean for three years. I made upwards of eight miles of hedges.

13418. Sir *James Graham.*] A great deal of this was heath?—Yes.

13419. With moor-game upon it?—Yes, a fine shooting moor.

13420. Mr. *Loch.*] What was the next process?—Growing rape upon it after two crops of oats, and letting it lie in grass two or three years; then after that it went on in the regular five-crop rotation.

13421. *Chairman.*] How do you crop that land at present?—Two years in grass; for instance, it is sown out, I cut about 20 acres of hay, and the rest is pasture for two years, and the third year oats in general; the fourth year a green crop of some kind, or bare fallow; the fifth year wheat, oats, and sometimes barley sown down with seeds.

13422. Do you grow much wheat?—I grow a good deal of wheat; in consequence of having these tile-drains I find that I can grow wheat where I could not before.

13423. Sir *James Graham.*] You are now growing wheat where moor-game used to be, and where heath was when you took that farm?—I am doing it to a considerable extent; I have about 42 acres of wheat this year.

13424. When you entered upon that farm that land was wild, with heath upon it?—Nothing but heath and flying bent.

13425. And there was fine grouse-shooting upon that very farm?—Yes.

13426. *Chairman.*] Can you grow good turnips upon that land?—Since it was drained I can; before I could not get them more than one year in ten.

13427. Mr. *Loch.*] Is yours a singular case, or is that the case of the district generally?—I think it would be the case generally if the same system was adopted; and I have heard that many of my neighbours mean to do so on both sides of the border; in which case turnips and potatoes will be as near as possible a certain crop when the land is thus drained.

13428. Sir *James Graham.*] Upon the English border, immediately adjoining you, is there not a considerable tract of land which was moor 14 years ago which is now in fine cultivation?—Yes, it grows fine turnips and potatoes.

13429. Mr. *Loch.*] Is there more wheat grown in that district than when you began farming?—A great deal more; red particularly.

13430. Sir *James Graham.*] Is not red wheat now grown where oats used to be?—We can get as much wheat now upon poor clay land after a fallow as we can get oats.

13431. And this entirely in consequence of draining?—Yes.

13432. Mr. *Cayley.*] How many acres did you reclaim of this kind?—About 600 acres.

13433. How long were you about it?—I was not long in reclaiming it; it was when times were very good, and I got good crops in five or six years. I went over it all.

13434. Then you got it all done by about 1811?—Or 1813, rather.

13435. Prices at that time would pay you?—Yes.

13436. Supposing you had to enter upon that farm now, do you think you would be induced to lay out the same amount in improving it?—I would not scruple to do so.

13437. Who are those potatoes grown by, that you say are grown upon the moor borders?—By farmers.

13438. Not by cottagers?—The cottagers also grow potatoes.

13439. Do the farmers grow a great quantity of potatoes?—I had about 26 acres of potatoes myself last year.

13440. Is that one of the first crops you can get?—No; we generally take rape first.

Mr. *James Church.*

4 May 1836.

13441. Have you applied much lime to that soil?—It must be all limed before it will produce vegetation.

13442. Is lime near at hand?—From four to seven miles.

13443. If the lime had not been near could you have reclaimed so extensively?—It would have been far more expensive.

13444. What does it cost you a chaldron?—I do not know; it is about 3 *d.* a bushel.

13445. Have not you had some advantage lately with regard to steam-packets going to Liverpool?—Yes, we find it very convenient for our fat stock.

13446. How long has that been in operation?—About five years, but it is increasing; there is competition in the trade now.

13447. That causes a great demand for stock?—Yes; especially in these times, when stock is high.

13448. So far as your stock is concerned, your farm is very profitable?—At present it is.

13449. The prices of stock now are high?—They are remunerating.

13450. Have the prices of stock rather risen lately?—Considerably.

13451. To what do you attribute that?—To the want of turnips in the south of England.

13452. Is there a great demand for your sheep now in Liverpool?—Very considerable.

13453. They have borne a very high price of late years?—Yes, the last four years.

13454. Have you a large clip of wool?—Not a very large clip; about 50 score of fleeces.

13455. Wool has borne a good price of late years?—It has been very high of late.

13456. To what do you attribute that?—To the great dearth of sheep in consequence of rot, in which we suffered with others. I lost about 25 score myself.

13457. If you had not had the advantages of these higher prices of wool and stock, what would have been your condition purely as a grain farmer?—That is a question I can scarcely answer, because the whole must be taken together; sometimes one pays at one time, and then the other pays before the end of the year.

13458. Do not you recollect the time when both used to pay?—Yes.

13459. Now you think it very lucky if the gains upon the stock cover the losses upon the grain?—No; we have something for ourselves.

13460. Do you know any farmers who are more peculiarly grain farmers than stock farmers?—Yes.

13461. Are the grain farmers doing well?—The small grain farmers are not doing well; but in the Scotch border there are very few grain farmers. They have generally more dependance even upon pork and butter than upon their grain, and there are hardly any that are literally grain growers.

13462. Then so long as the price of stock keeps up it does not very materially affect them if the price of corn falls?—It certainly affects them.

13463. Are you much acquainted with the farmers in your district?—Yes.

13464. Are they as rich a body of men as they were 20 years ago?—It is a difficult question to answer. I know that I am richer myself than I was 20 years ago.

13465. You have been cultivating a farm that has been gradually improving?—Yes.

13466. But taking a farmer upon land that was in a fair state of cultivation 20 years ago, and had been for some time before, do you think he is now as rich a man as he was 20 years ago?—That is a question I cannot answer. I know a good many farmers that are thriving very well, and I have known some that have been unfortunate, and the times must be against them no doubt; the prices of grain have been low.

13467. The Scotch farmers have an advantage in their 1 *l.* notes?—I cannot say much about that.

13468. Would you like to lose them?—No. I will keep hold of them as long as I can, and get hold of as many as I can; they are a very useful circulation.

215

Mr. *James Church*

4 May 1836

13469. Do you think they would be useful to the English farmer?—I cannot say. Perhaps they might be useful to them, but they have sovereigns.

13470. Could not you get sovereigns?—We get them occasionally.

13471. But you prefer the 1 *l.* notes?—I like the 1 *l.* notes better.

13472. Mr. *Loch.*] They are more easy to carry?—Yes.

13473. *Chairman.*] What rent do you pay for this farm?—270 *l.* for the arable farm.

13474 How much per acre is that?—Six hundred and forty acres.

13475. Sir *James Graham.*] When did you renew your lease with the Duke of Buccleugh?—I had a 21 years' lease from 1806, which expired in 1827.

13476. And you effected the greater part of those improvements before 1827?—The whole of the improvements were effected before 1827, and then I began to reimprove it by tile-draining.

13477. Was the rise in the rent considerable in 1827?—It was raised 100 *l.* per year. The first was an improving lease for 175 *l.* per year.

13478. And you brought it into a state of cultivation from an open moor?—Yes.

13479. And then in 1827 you renewed with the Duke of Buccleugh, and he added 100 *l.* a year to the rent?—Yes.

13480. And you entered then upon a new lease for another 21 years?—Not exactly; I am not at liberty to say exactly how it is.

13481. Mr. *Miles.*] What is the average depth of the peat-surface?—At one time it was from one to three feet deep, but now it is very much reduced.

13482. How often do you think it necessary to renew the liming?—I am going over it now a third time, and I give it about three times the quantity I did formerly.

13483. For good cultivation do you think it necessary to apply it about once in 10 years?—Except upon this alluvial soil I think about 20 years. I think about once in 10 years, provided you use the soil gently afterwards; if you overcrop it, it is injured.

13484. What is the average crop of wheat you grow per acre?—I have not had much experience; but I can easily suppose that it would be about 30 imperial bushels an acre.

13485. What quantity of oats do you grow?—About 120 acres of oats.

13486. What quantity per acre?—From 30 Winchester bushels to 60, and even more. Upon that moor-land I have often had from 50 to 60 bushels.

13487. What quantity of stock do you keep upon that farm?—I shift my stock a good deal about upon different parts. I keep 10 score of Cheviot ewes, which are in general crossed with Leicester rams.

13488. Mr. *Loch.*] What is the general condition of the farmers in your neighbourhood?—A great proportion of the farmers are very much engaged in stock-farming.

13489. *Chairman.*] Do you think it is possible for any one to farm advantageously who only has a grain farm?—It is impossible for any man that has only a grain farm to farm well; he must have some stock in order to do so.

13490. Sir *James Graham.*] Do not you rely very much upon eating off both your rape and your first year's grass with sheep and lambs?—Yes.

13491. Do you think the land can be managed advantageously without the use of sheep and lambs?—I think it is managed much better with sheep and lambs.

13492. Mr. *Cayley.*] Does the cross of the Cheviot and the Leicester ram answer?—Uncommonly well.

13493. Is this better than the pure Leicester?—I think it is even a more profitable sheep upon middling pasture than pure Leicester; and it has increased to a very great extent in our neighbourhood.

13494. Mr. *Evans.*] Do you feed off all your rape with sheep?—Yes.

13495. Do you thresh any of it for seed?—I once attempted it; but I will never attempt it again, our climate is so very uncertain.

13496. Mr. *Miles.*] What weight will your sheep get per quarter?—From 12 lbs. to 20 lbs. a quarter.

13497. What fleece upon each sheep?—It depends upon the keep; it would be from 6 lbs. to 10 lbs.

13498. Sir *James Graham.*] Has not the example of your success induced tenants immediately adjoining you, even under the low prices, within the last

Mr. *James Church.*

4 May 1836.

four years, and on the remainder of leases not very long, to bring into cultivation moor-land exactly of the description of your own?—There is no doubt of it; all the ground adjoining that has the same appearance.

13499. Have not tenants on the English side, who have not a very long term remaining upon their leases, been within the last four or five years reclaiming land under similar circumstances?—Within the last two or three years my next neighbour has improved land to a very considerable extent.

13500. Mr. *Miles.*] All those who are engaged in reclaiming such land are under leases?—Under leases, and some of them as annual tenants.

13501. Sir *James Graham.*] Has not the tenant next to you at English-town reclaimed a large portion of moor on my estate, with a remaining term of only eight or nine years?—I am not exactly aware; but he has acted like a man that had a new lease commencing.

13502. Mr. *Loch.*] Have the improvements upon those lands been impeded by the number of small occupiers?—They have, in some measure.

13503. The large farmers are making much greater improvements than the small ones?—No doubt of it.

13504. Sir *James Graham.*] Should you say that it was in the power of the Legislature to do anything for your benefit, looking at the general condition of your neighbourhood, and the present state of the law as affecting agriculture?—I cannot see that they can do anything. There has been a great deal of talk about the malt-tax, but I know nothing about it; it would raise the price of barley.

13505. If things are let alone and landlords act fairly towards their tenants, can you see anything that the State can do to improve their condition?—The landlord can do much more than the State.

13506. Can you suggest anything that the Legislature can do?—Nothing.

13507. And you think it is a question mainly of rent between the landlord and the tenant?—Certainly it is; and it is a question with the landlord to choose an active and enterprising tenant.

13508. And the tenant to choose his landlord?—The tenant will endeavour to take care of that.

13509. *Chairman.*] What is the expense of draining per acre?—It is 10 *d.* a rod of 18 feet; it will cost about 4 *l.* an acre, without the horse-work.

13510. Sir *James Graham.*] Does that include the whole cost of the tiles?—Yes, at 25 *s.* a 1,000; but it does not include the drawing.

13511. Mr. *Loch.*] Including all the expenses, what does it cost?—In many instances we have to buy flats or slate; but I find that slates are better even than flats. With the horse-carriage and all, I suppose it will cost 7 *l.* an acre; it depends upon what distance the tiles are to carry.

13512. Sir *James Graham.*] Have not the proprietors now discovered that it is much better to have a number of small tile-kilns, so as to diminish the carriage, than to have one large tile-kiln, an expensive establishment, at a distance from the farm?—There is no doubt of it; the Duke of Buccleugh has erected one upon my farm, and four miles distant there is another, and he means to erect more if found necessary.

13513. The whole cost of a small tile establishment is not to be compared with the extra expense of loading from a distance?—Not at all; when I got leave to drain with tiles, I drove them about 10 miles, and finding that very expensive, I set to work and made a kiln, and it cost me about 150 *l.*

13514. Mr. *Miles.*] Have you been in the habit of laying down a slate floor to your drains?—Yes.

13515. Why do you prefer slate to tiles?—The slate is much firmer and harder, and a man can set his foot upon a slate, but if he sets his foot upon a tile it will break.

13516. Sir *James Graham.*] Has not the smoothness of the slate a great advantage that no dirt accumulates upon it?—Yes.

13517. Mr. *Miles.*] Which is most expensive to you?—About the same; I get slates laid down at the sea-side about 15 *s.* to 17 *s.* a 1,000, and we can carry 1,500 or 2,000 in a cart; but for those who are situated far from the sea it would be different.

13518. Mr. *Heathcote.*] What do you give for tiles?—If I bought them they would cost me 30 *s.* a 1,000 for three inch ones.

13519. Does that include the burning?—Yes.

217

Mr. *James Church.*

4 May 1836.

13520. Sir *James Graham.*] What is the size that you generally use for the cross drains?—Three inch tiles for the cross drains, and four inch for the main drains.

13521. With reference to the district of the Scotch border, both the English and Scotch side with which you have been acquainted since the year 1819, should you say that the gross produce had greatly increased, or that it was stationary, or had diminished?—I should think it is about stationary.

13522. Notwithstanding all the draining?—It is only some districts that have been drained.

13523. The question refers to the cultivated parts?—The cultivated part has increased, but there is a great part that has not increased.

13524. Taking a survey of the whole since the year 1819, should you say that it had increased or otherwise on the cultivated land?—I think it has rather increased, but not very considerably.

13525. Has more wheat been grown?—More wheat is grown decidedly, and less barley and oats.

13526. In the present year is there a greater or less breadth of wheat sown?—Less wheat sown this year than there has been for some years, and more barley and oats; the general opinion is, that almost a third less wheat is sown this year.

13527. Would you like to have a return published by the Government annually, of the quantities sown of wheat, barley and oats, in each parish throughout Great Britain, so that you might have a knowledge of the proportions of each cultivated throughout the kingdom?—It would make us speculate.

13528. Would it not check speculation?—No, it would not check speculation; it would make me speculate if I knew that less wheat was sown.

13529. You would then speculate with some data, but now you speculate without data?—Yes; I am keeping all my wheat.

13530. That is a speculation without any data?—I have pretty good data with the present price of wheat.

13531. You expect that wheat will rise?—Yes.

13532. How much has it risen within the last month?—It has risen and fallen within a fortnight.

13533. What was the price you got for your last sale of red wheat?—I have sold none; I hold all my stock.

13534. But you confidently anticipate a further rise of wheat?—I think there is every appearance of it; I know many people that have not nearly the usual quantity sown this year; I know some farmers that have not half the quantity sown.

13535. What clover seed do you sow?—Red and white, and occasionally yellow.

13536. Foreign or British?—We generally have foreign; but we consider British grown as good as the foreign.

13537. Would you like to have clover seed cheaper?—It would be an advantage; but we must not have one thing cheaper and another thing dearer; I do not know whether it would do much good; I do not think it would be a great saving to any farmer.

13538. What difference would it be to you if you had clover seed one half cheaper?—It would make a difference of 10 *l.* or 15 *l.* a year.

13539. Mr. *Heathcote.*] Do you grow any clover seed yourself?—No.

13540. But you are aware that many people in the south grow it, and it would be an injury to them if foreign seed were admitted without duty?—Certainly.

13541. Mr. *Clive.*] Would not the clover be better when it comes up if you sow foreign seed?—I am not aware of the difference between home and foreign seed; we grow no seed in Scotland.

13542. Mr. *Sanford.*] When you go to market, do you make any inquiry as to whether it is grown in England or on the Continent?—We know that part is grown in England.

13543. Which do you prefer?—We look at the sample, and take the best strong sample.

13544. From your experience which answers the best?—I do not know any difference.

Mr. *James Church.*

4 May 1836.

13545. Mr. *Miles.*] You were understood to state that in liming you lay on 60 bushels an acre, and upon the second liming you put on double the quantity?—Yes.

13546. And so on in proportion?—Yes.

13547. Sir *James Graham.*] Has not the lime a remarkable effect when applied to the soil, in producing clover?—It has.

13548. Mr. *Loch.*] Are there any farms out of occupation in that country?—I do not know; there are plenty of applications for any farm that is out of lease.

13549. When you spoke of that district, did you mean the whole county of Dumfries, as well as the border?—No, I spoke of the border; the upper part of Dumfries-shire has been very much improved the last 10 years.

13550. A considerable quantity of additional land has been brought into cultivation?—Yes, cultivated in a very superior manner to what it was; they grow a great deal of turnips; it is fine dry land, fit for feeding sheep upon.

13551. Sir *James Graham.*] Do you know the Duke of Buccleugh's Drumlaurig estate?—Yes.

13552. Should not you say that the produce of that estate has very greatly improved since 1819?—Yes, I think it must be doubled since that time.

13553. Do you know the Annandale estate?—Yes.

13554. Has not that improved very much?—Very much.

13555. And the produce very much increased?—Yes.

13556. Mr. *Loch.*] Do you know Lord Selkirk's estate?—Yes.

13557. Has the improvement upon that estate been very great since 1819?—Very great.

13558. Mr. *Dunlop.*] Mr. Monteith's estate, has that much improved?—It was improved earlier than 1819, and they are going on improving it still.

13559. Mr. *Heathcote.*] The result of all this improvement leads you to believe that there must be a great increase of all agricultural produce, and especially wheat?—Yes.

13560. Do you consider that the plan of taking an account of all the crops in the kingdom would be practicable, without a considerable expense?—It would be a considerable expense.

13561. Could you arrive at any great degree of accuracy after all?—Unless there was a law to compel the returns.

13562. There would be many that would not be willing to do it?—I do not think they would.

13563. How can it be accomplished except by appointing officers to go about and imposing penalties for not doing it?—There is no other way.

13564. That would cause considerable expense and ill-will?—It would cause expense; not much ill-will.

13565. Mr. *Loch.*] Are the improvements you have described on the Duke of Buccleugh's estate, and the Annandale estate, and Lord Selkirk's estate, still going on?—Yes, they are going on up to the present period.

13566. Sir *James Graham.*] Then, generally speaking, the difficulties of the times and the present low prices have been met in your neighbourhood, both in Scotland and in the north of England, by increased exertions on the part of the landlords and tenants?—Certainly they have.

13567. And their increased exertions have added to the produce?—That is my opinion.

13568. Mr. *B. Baring.*] Is there any large district of country similar to that which you have reclaimed, which is capable of being brought into cultivation in the marshes?—Not to any extent.

13569. Mr. *Clive.*] Then upon the whole the tenants in the north are looking forward with favourable prospects before them?—It depends altogether upon how prices continue; but the extensive farmers have a great advantage in the high price of wool, mutton and beef. Pork has not made the same advance in price that wool and beef have done.

13570. Sir *James Graham.*] How is the price of butter?—Butter has been very high this season.

13571. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] If wheat goes back to 5 *s.* 6 *d.* a bushel, and never exceeds 6 *s.* a bushel, do you think that the growth of wheat would be continued with confidence?—Not at all; it is in consequence of the low price of wheat that many people have not sown it this year.

219

Mr. *James Church*

4 May 1836.

13572. Speaking of Scotland generally, what is the lowest price at which you think they can grow wheat with confidence?—Since I commenced farming, it was the general opinion that wheat could not be produced under 80 *s.* a quarter, but I rather suspect now that 64 *s.* would be considered a fair price. There would not be much profit at 60 *s.* or 64 *s.*; it would merely be remunerating.

13573. *Chairman.*] If the price was to continue lower than that, you think less wheat would be sown?—Yes.

13574. The farmers would devote their land to other corn?—Yes.

13575. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] Do not you think that the price of other grain is upon a tract of years governed by the price of wheat?—I would not say that altogether.

13576. Do not you think that from the experience of years it would seem that the price of wheat does in fact govern the price of other grain?—Other grain sometimes governs the price of wheat.

13577. As far as your experience and knowledge goes, should not you say that it is an established fact that the price of other grain is governed upon the long run of years by the price of wheat?—Yes; at the same time I know that if there happens to be a bad crop of oats, when wheat is very reasonable, oats may be high, because they are used for a different purpose.

13578. Looking to Scotland generally, and supposing that the price of wheat should not upon the average of years exceed 6 *s.* a bushel, and the price of other grain be in proportion to that, do you then think that the agriculture of Scotland would be carried on with the same degree of confidence that it has been heretofore?—It would depend a great deal upon the price of butcher's meat and of wool; but we would consider that not a remunerating price for wheat, and therefore would throw more into grass.

13579. Sir *James Graham.*] As to the condition of the labouring population in your neighbourhood, should you say that they were as well off at this moment, considering their wages and the price of the articles which they use, as at any former period in your memory?—Generally speaking, the labourers are well off.

13580. Do you think they ever were more comfortable than they are now?—I do not think they ever were.

13581. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] Have not the wages that have been paid in the course of the last two or three years been greater than were justified by the price of corn?—I cannot answer that question; but I know that we get them as cheap as we can, and we have been paying the same wages as we pay now the last two years.

13582. What do you pay now?—About 18 *d.* and 20 *d.*

13583. What is the highest rate of wages you have known?—The farmers generally pay moderate wages in comparison with other trades. The labouring class like farming labour better than other kinds of labour.

13584. *Chairman.*] Are the wages paid in money?—Yes.

13585. Mr. *Dunlop.*] Do not you give your labourers the use of a small piece of land for planting potatoes?—Yes.

13586. And you cart fuel for them?—Yes.

13587. Mr. *Miles.*] Do you charge them rent for the land they occupy?—They pay a small rent for a house and garden; about 20 *s.* or 25 *s.*; but they get a good many potatoes.

13588. Sir *James Graham.*] Is not it common for a labourer that keeps a pig to give to the farmer the manure that he makes for his land, in consideration of having as much potato land as the manure will cover?—It is very common.

13589. Mr. *Loch.*] What charges do you pay besides rent?—The poor-rates are about 14 *d.* in the pound upon the rent; the landlord paying half, and the tenant the other.

13590. What other payments have you?—Road-money; that is about 4 *d.* a pound in the rent.

13591. Have you any corn-rents in your county?—Very few, except on Lord Mansfield's property.

13592. Do you know how the fiars are struck in that county?—I was once examined as a witness when the fiars were struck.

13593. Do you know to what class of witnesses it is confined?—To corn-merchants, farmers and millers.

Mr. *James Church.*
4 May 1836.

13594. Do you know what grain is included; is it confined to grain sold in the county?—I suppose that it is not confined to that, because shippers' evidence is taken.

13595. Therefore it includes tenants, dealers, millers and shippers?—Yes.

Mr. *George Robertson,* called in; and Examined.

Mr. *G. Robertson.*

13596. *Chairman.*] WHERE do you reside?—In Kincardineshire, at Balmanno, six miles from Montrose.

13597. What is your occupation?—I am a farmer, a surveyor, and agent for several estates.

13598. Are those estates which you superintend all in Kincardineshire, and that district of Scotland?—They are in Kincardineshire and Aberdeenshire, and my practice extends into Forfarshire and the neighbouring counties. Whatever I have to say will refer to the east coast of Scotland, and more particularly to Forfarshire, Kincardineshire and Aberdeenshire.

13599. What is the condition of the farmers in those counties?—I should not say that they are in a very prosperous state; but I never knew them in a more sound and healthy state than they are now.

13600. Are they principally tenants on lease?—All on lease.

13601. Are the leases of long duration?—Nineteen and 21 years; and some improving leases a little longer.

13602. Are the rents principally corn rents or money rents?—Partly both; some are corn rents payable by the fiars of the county, generally the triple quarter; that is, a quarter of wheat, barley and oats; and others are in money. Some estates have been converted from money rents into a corn rent, at a certain rate of conversion, and other estates are entirely paid in money rents.

13603. Have there been many improvements going on in that district of country the last few years?—There has been a great spirit of improvement since the year 1824.

13604. Of what do those improvements consist?—They chiefly consist of an alteration of the system altogether, particularly from fallow as a preparation for wheat; they now cultivate potatoes very generally, followed by barley.

13605. Is the soil a wet soil or a dry soil?—All kinds of soils; clay, loam, gravel, &c.

13606. On the wet soil has much draining been done?—A great deal of draining has been done, and they find the turnips do very well, and to be of good feeding quality.

13607. Have the dry soils been manured with bone-dust?—They have very extensively; bone-manure has made a very considerable alteration in the husbandry of Scotland, and rape-dust is now beginning to be used.

13608. Has that increased the produce considerably?—Very considerably.

13609. Was there much wheat grown there previously?—There was a great deal grown during the war; but they find that it does not pay, and they have altered the system from wheat to barley, and a great deal more is laid down to grass. The introduction of sheep husbandry has become more common of late, particularly for feeding off turnips raised by bone-dust.

13610. Is the stock principally shipped for the English market?—For the English market, and by land for Glasgow and Edinburgh. Of late steam-navigation has laid open the London market, and we have availed ourselves very freely of that.

13611. Have there been any farms out of lease in that part of the country?—A great many.

13612. Has there been any difficulty in getting tenants?—The very reverse; there is a great competition for them.

13613. In those cases have the farms been let at reduced rents or at higher rents?—They have generally been about the old rents; it depends greatly, however, whether the land is improveable or not. In Strathmore, in a district of Forfarshire, there has been a great deal of money-rent converted into corn-rent by the fiars prices.

13614. Are the local burdens heavy in that country?—Very far from it; they are light.

13615. Is there any poor-rate?—There is no poor-rate.

13616. What is the amount of road-money?—That may amount to 2 *d.* or 4 *d.*

4 *d.* in the pound, and there is the schoolmaster's salary; and, in some counties, there is a Bridewell assessment: but altogether it does not amount to more than 6 d. or 8 *d.* in the pound.

13617. What is the average rent of the land?—In Aberdeenshire, which is a very open county, and unsheltered, and very much exposed to vicissitudes of climate, I find, upon the best inquiry I can make, that the average rent may be about 12 *s.* 6 *d.* an acre of the arable land; but if it were enclosed I do not know what it might bring.

13618. Is there pasture attached to the farm?—There is; but this is making allowance for the pasture.

13619. Mr. *Loch.*] What is the average rent in Kincardineshire?—About 20 *s.* the imperial acre; about one-third of the county is enclosed.

13620. In Forfarshire?—It is about 24 *s.* to 25 *s.* 6 *d.*, and two-thirds of the county may be enclosed land.

13621. *Chairman.*] What is the description of soil there?—The land is very sound in Forfarshire.

13622. What is it in Kincardineshire?—There it is strong, and rather good.

13623. Wheat land?—Yes; but it is chiefly barley husbandry that is followed; and there has been great attention paid to stock there.

13624. Sir *James Graham.*] You say that agriculture has improved in those three counties since 1824; is the condition of the farmer better or worse than it was before 1824?—It is very much improved.

13625. Speaking generally of Aberdeenshire, Forfarshire and Kincardineshire, you would say that the condition of the occupying tenant has improved?—Very much.

13626. An adjustment has taken place between the farmer and the landlord in those counties with respect to rent?—There has; an adjustment has taken place, and in many cases abatements have been given, not universally but pretty generally; and the commutation of money into corn rent has been a great relief to the farmer.

13627. Where there has been no abatement of rent has there been an outlay in draining and improving?—Generally there has.

13628. And you say that throughout those counties the condition of the working farmer is better than it was in 1824?—Decidedly. After the conclusion of the war adventurers and speculators were turned out of the field; there never was a more sound class of tenants than there is at present.

13629. Can you suggest anything that the State can do to improve the condition of the working farmers in the three counties you are best acquainted with?—I am afraid the State can do little; they (the tenants) must depend very much upon themselves. The Legislature may do a little, but it would affect other classes; if the malt-tax were reduced it might no doubt relieve them a little; but I fancy the breadth of barley now sown is nearly sufficient to meet the demand.

13630. Except an alteration of the malt-tax, is there anything that you can suggest?—The agricultural interest may be partially relieved by the Legislature by a property-tax and a modified tax on income.

13631. You suggest that as a means of relief for the working farmer?—I do not know that that would relieve him very much.

13632. Suppose that a property-tax, as it existed in the war, were imposed, would that be a benefit to the working farmer?—I am afraid very little.

13633. Then you would not suggest that as a remedy?—No.

13634. Is there anything else that you would suggest?—A fixed valuation of tithes in England; but that refers to England, not to Scotland.

13635. But the question refers to Scotland?—They have an impression that a reduction of duty on malt would relieve them a little, but I question whether it would to the extent that they imagine. It would no doubt enable the lower classes to make a wholesome and cheap beverage for themselves and increase the consumption; but I am afraid that illicit distillation would be the consequence.

13636. Do not the Scotch peasantry like whiskey better than beer?—Yes, they do; but they are beginning to drink more beer than formerly.

13637. You have described the situation of the farmer as improved since 1824; has the situation of the working peasant improved or deteriorated?—As far as my knowledge and observation extends, I think his condition has improved also.

Mr. G. Robertson.

4 May 1836.

13638. Have not the prices of the articles which he uses fallen more than his wages have fallen?—The prices of those commodities which he purchases have certainly fallen very much.

13639. Have his wages fallen in proportion?—They have not fallen of late.

13640. What wages do they pay in those three counties?—I have made statements of all those statistical facts, which I will submit to the Committee, viz. "Half-yearly servants rate of labour in Forfar and Kincardineshire." Servants are engaged half-yearly with us. Unmarried ploughmen, from 5 *l.* to 6 *l.* 10 *s.*, with two pecks of oatmeal weekly, and an allowance of milk and potatoes, with lodging and fuel generally in a bothie; that is, a house generally attached near to the steading, where they all live together and make their own food. Unmarried half-yearly labourers are from 4 *l.* 10 *s.* to 5 *l.*; boys from 30 *s.* to 3 *l.*, with the usual allowance of meal and milk in the bothie. Married men-servants are engaged by the year; they generally get a house and garden and maintenance for a cow, and about 8 *l.* of wages, with 6½ bolls of oatmeal; they also get an allowance of potatoes, or ground for raising them, with a few barrels of coals and brushwood for fuel. Women-servants, for farm-work, if engaged for six months, get, in summer, from 3 *l.* to 4 *l.*, and in winter about 40 *s.*, with victuals in the kitchen; and if engaged by the day for farm-work, 8 *d.* in winter and 9 *d.* or 10 *d.* in summer, but without victuals or lodging. Harvest-work, by the acre, at from 7 *s.* to 10 *s.* for cutting, binding, and stooking, when cut by the hand, and from 5 *s.* to 7 *s.* when cut by the scythe, and when cut by the threave about 3 *d.* In none of these cases do the labourers get victuals. When shearers are engaged for the harvest, the wages for men is about 45 *s.*, and for women 35 *s.*, with victuals and beer. In addition to cutting the grain, they are usually bound to assist in taking up the potato crop. Farm labourers, per day, in winter, 1 *s.* 3 *d.*; in summer, 1 *s.* 8 *d.* to 2 *s.*; and dykers, ditchers, hedgers, quarriers, &c., from 2 *s.* to 3 *s.*, according to the season of the year and activity of the labourers.

13641. Have those allowances been much reduced since 1824?—They have not been reduced at all.

13642. Since 1824, the articles used by the peasantry have fallen in price?—All that they use for clothing and many other things, with the exception of shoes, which is a very heavy article, has fallen. Tea and sugar, and almost every thing else.

13643. Then, looking at their condition generally, their comforts have increased since 1824?—I think they have.

13644. You have described the condition of the peasantry, and the condition of the occupying farmer; now, looking at the whole condition of the country, should you say that it was more or less prosperous than it was in 1824?—I think decidedly more prosperous.

13645. Is the competition for farms very great?—For any little farm in Aberdeenshire, I have had sometimes a dozen unexceptionable tenants after it.

13646. Is there any appearance of diminution of capital to be embarked in the cultivation of land in those counties?—None whatever.

13647. No mistrust which leads to an unwillingness to lay it out in land?—None in the least; they have great confidence in the landlords.

13648. Then the question of rent being adjusted, you see nothing that can be done to improve their condition?—The adjustment by converting the money into a corn rent more generally would be an improvement.

13649. But that is in progress?—Yes; and occasionally abatements are still wanted; but when a case is made out, it is usually granted.

13650. Mr. *Loch.*] Is there much new land bringing into cultivation?—A great deal.

13651. And that is going on down to the latest period?—Yes, and it is still going on. When a farmer in Aberdeenshire is high rented, he takes to the reclaiming of uncultivated land; he reduces his land to a fair rent per acre.

13652. Sir *James Graham.*] In those three counties should you say the gross produce had increased since 1824?—Decidedly.

13653. Is it greater now than the consumption of those three counties; are they exporting counties?—I think they are; Montrose is a great exporting port.

13654. Do they send produce to England?—To England, and up the Frith of Forth to Glasgow, and to Leith.

13655. To

13655. To come nearer than 1824, should you say that since the year 1830, the produce has increased?—I am inclined to think it has in the general amount of corn produced; and in cattle there is an improvement even since then.

13656. On the whole you would say that there has been a progressive increase?—I think there has.

13657. Mr. *Miles.*] You were understood to say that it is not your own feeling that the taking off part of the malt-tax would be of use to the farmers, but that it is the feeling of the farmers generally of the three counties you have mentioned?—They have a feeling of that sort.

13658. If the malt-tax was reduced one half, do you conceive that the Scotch peasantry would then consume beer in preference to spirits?—Their objection is rather to the restrictions upon malting, than to the amount of the duty; they are more annoyed with those than even with the amount of the duty.

13659. Mr. *Loch.*] If those restrictions were taken off, would they make whiskey?—I am afraid they would.

13660. Mr. *Miles.*] You were understood to say that beer is entering more into consumption in Scotland than it was formerly?—Not very much; it has never been the general beverage of the Scotch labourers.

13661. Sir *James Graham.*] If the effect of the reduction of the malt duty were that beer and whiskey both fell in the same proportion, exactly corresponding to the reduction of duty, do you think that the Scotch would take to the cheap beer rather than the cheap whiskey?—They might make beer at home if there was no restriction upon the malting; but I am afraid they would make a little whiskey also.

13662. Mr. *Miles.*] Could the growth of barley be greatly increased in Scotland?—I think it could.

13663. Mr. *Heathcote.*] You have described the condition of the peasantry and of the occupiers as much improved, what is the condition of the landowners?—They are not worse, but rather better, I think.

13664. Have rents not fallen?—I think the rental of Scotland now is as great as it was at any former period. I believe there is much waste land brought into cultivation; the quantity of produce is of course increased, which has tended to keep up the general rental.

13665. But upon the same land?—In some of the districts the clay land is not so high; but that is made up by the rise of rent in other districts.

13666. Has there been a great expenditure of capital by the landowners upon the land?—There has; but the great improvements have been done by the tenants.

13667. Do the tenants lay out money upon the land, and not the landlords?—The landlords have done a part.

13668. Therefore a great deal of the improvement of the land may be considered as the interest of money laid out by the landlords?—No, I do not think it may be considered that altogether.

13669. Mr. *Cayley.*] Do you attribute any increased produce, since 1830, to the good seasons that have occurred since 1830?—I think, upon an average, we have had good seasons since 1820, with the exception of 1823, which was a wet season; but I have no doubt the improved cultivation has added to the increase very much.

13670. Do you remember the seasons of 1828, 1829, 1830 and 1831?—I do not recollect them particularly; but the impression upon my mind is, that the produce has been above an average since 1821; in 1828 we had a good crop.

13671. If you had a good crop in that year, and there was a bad crop in England, and the price rose in consequence of the bad crop in England, you would reap the advantage?—The price of agricultural produce is very much influenced by the state of the manufacturing and commercial classes also.

13672. How long has that district been an exporting district?—A long time.

13673. Have you been more an exporting district since the operation of steam navigation?—We have been more an exporting district as regards the sending up of cattle to the London market. Formerly we reared a good deal of cattle: they were generally sold in a lean state, and carried up to Leicestershire; but now we rear and fatten them, and send them direct to London ourselves.

Mr. *G. Robertson.*

4 May 1836.

13674. How long has that been in operation?—Two or three or four years; but it has been coming into operation for some time.

13675. Has the price of meat been high this year?—It has.

13676. To what do you attribute that?—To two causes; to the failure of the turnip crop in England and the opening of the London market to us, and to the thriving state of the other great interests.

13677. Supposing your condition had been very bad previous to 1824, yet the opening of the London market might have tended to recover you from the state of distress?—The Scotch farmer has been always looking about him. When he saw that wheat did not pay he immediately altered his system.

13678. Will you state when the time was that wheat did not pay?—When he found that he had not a remunerating price for wheat, when the preparation was fallow, he took to potatoes as a preparation for wheat, and he found that profitable both for rearing and feeding cattle for the market.

13679. When was it that he did not find wheat a remunerating crop?—I cannot state the exact time.

13680. Was it before 1824?—Before, and since.

13681. Do you remember the great loss in the sheep-flocks of England four or five years ago?—Yes; I was in England, and I heard of it.

13682. Did that produce a great destruction?—That is a question I cannot speak to, because I am not conversant with the state of England particularly.

13683. Did the price of sheep and wool rise after that rot?—I believe it did.

13684. You say that the farmers are looking forward to better times. Now if they have been so prosperous since 1824, what occasion have they to look for better times?—I have not said that they are in a prosperous state, but that they are in a sound and healthy state; but I never knew the time when agriculture was a very lucrative pursuit.

13685. Are they making as much now as they ever did?—Not so much as during the war; but there are now fewer adventurers, and there is an immense economy in labour, and great skill and great enterprise amongst them.

13686. Was there any distress among the farmers previous to 1824?—There was before the abatements began to take place; there were a great many that had taken land at a high rate, and many of these were turned out of the field.

13687. Did they take their farms at a high rate because of the high price of produce?—They took farms during the war at almost any rate at which they could get them.

13688. Did it ever occur to you what produced the fall in prices?—I think it was returning from the artificial state in which the country was placed by a combination of circumstances to a natural state.

13689. Have you ever considered the question of the currency?—Not particularly.

13690. Do you look upon the 1 *l.* notes to be an advantage to you?—I do not know.

13691. Would you like to be rid of them?—I think we should get on pretty well if we were placed upon the same footing as in England; there is no want of credit.

13692. If any gentleman was to propose to bring in a bill to bring the Scotch to the English system, you would not oppose it?—If it was introduced gradually.

13693. If it is no advantage to you, what necessity is there for that?—I have not said that it is no advantage.

13694. You would not like to part with the 1 *l.* notes?—We have no wish for a change.

13695. You remember that Scotchmen made a great noise about it in 1826, when it was proposed to take the 1 *l.* notes away?—Yes.

13696. They thought it of advantage to them that the notes should remain?—They did.

13697. How have the spring crops been with you the last two or three years?—The spring crops are very fair.

13698. Is your land in a high situation?—Mine is about 200 feet above the level of the sea.

13699. Is it upon limestone?—No, upon gravel and clay.

13700. Is it peculiarly affected by a dry spring?—Not particularly.

13701. Do you remember whether the springs of 1832 and 1833 were very dry?—

dry?—We are not so much affected by that as in England; our land is pretty well drained, and a dry season we consider of advantage for getting the seeds well in.

13702. But after the spring crops have come up, if the whole of May is dry, do you consider that an advantage?—Dry seasons are generally of advantage; with the exception of 1826, I scarcely ever knew Scotland suffer from a dry season.

13703. You state that when wheat ceased to be remunerating to the farmers of Scotland they betook themselves to another crop. What do you conceive to be a remunerating price for wheat?—It depends so much upon the rotation adopted, because every crop must be considered as remunerating in its relation to other crops in the rotation. There is a relation between all the crops in the rotation adopted, and if one crop does not pay in itself, yet perhaps it enables another crop, or the whole crops in the rotation, to pay better, or the whole course of crops to remunerate.

13704. If corn happens to be selling low and stock sells high, there would then be a profit upon the farm that there would not be otherwise?—Yes, it is equalised by that means.

13705. And stock has been high?—Yes.

13706. If stock had borne the usual proportion to wheat the last five or six years, would the condition of the farmer have been so prosperous?—I do not know what proportion stock should bear to wheat.

13707. Taking the price of mutton at 6 *d.*, and the price of wheat at 64 *s.*, and supposing the same proportion had continued when wheat fell to 40 *s.*, would you say that the farmers in Scotland would have been prosperous?—I do not know what can be called the proportion which one kind of produce bears to another. I do not know that wheat can be taken as the standard to regulate other prices by.

13708. For 50 or 100 years back, do not you find, upon an average of six or ten years, some sort of relation between the price of one produce and another?—No doubt of it.

13709. Supposing the proportion to have been 6 *d.* a pound for mutton when wheat was at 64 *s.*, and that mutton had borne the same proportionate price when wheat fell to 40 *s.*, do you think the Scotch farmer would then have been enabled to make a good living?—The Scotch farmer would have tried something else than wheat; he would have extended his grass-cultivation.

13710. And that would have tended to reduce the price of meat still more?—No doubt.

13711. And if the price of barley had been also reduced?—Those are all regulated by the demand by the manufacturing and commercial classes.

13712. Do you know anything of the state of the manufacturing and commercial classes?—My belief is that they never were more prosperous.

13713. How long has that been the case?—It has been gradually coming on for years.

13714. In the face of that increasing prosperity has there not been a decline in the price of wheat?—That may be accounted for by the great additional average crops for a series of years, and perhaps there may be an alteration in the food of the operative classes; when manufactures go on well, the operative classes purchase the finest quality of the produce; and when it is not so they purchase a cheaper and coarser sort of produce.

13715. Are you able to perceive a great increase in the demand of the operative classes?—Very great in flour and meat; and I have no doubt the increased price of barley is caused by a demand for malting in England.

13716. Do you attribute a part of that to the beer-duty having been taken off?—I am not able to speak to that; but perhaps it may be so.

13717. Do you conceive that wages ought generally to be regulated by the price of corn?—To a certain extent; but also by the quantity of labour in the market; but in all these things so many causes come into operation, that it is difficult to say which is the chief cause.

13718. But supposing the supply and demand for labour to remain the same, will not eventually the price of labour fall in proportion to the fall in the price of food?—At present the demand for labour for the manufacturing interest is so great, that we can scarcely get hands for the necessary operations of agriculture.

13719. And that sustains the wages?—No doubt it does.

13720. Do

Mr. *G. Robertson.*

4 May 1836.

13720. Do you live in a manufacturing district?—I am within the range of Glasgow, Dundee and Aberdeen, large manufacturing towns.

13721. Then the demand from those manufacturing towns is a great assistance to you?—No question, as a market.

13722. Can you speak as to the condition of the tenants as a body, comparing their condition now with 20 years ago; are they as rich a body as they were?—I should say they are; that is to say, their capital is quite as fit to perform its functions as it was 20 years ago.

13723. Have they lost much capital during the last 20 years?—A man, that had his farm fully stocked 20 years ago, is as rich a man comparatively as he was then, because his capital is fit to perform the functions of his farm.

13724. Is the amount of capital upon his farm as much his own as it was then?—If the question means whether he has more borrowed money, I think he has less than he had 20 years ago. I think there is more capital among farmers with relation to the stock upon their farms than there was then.

13725. Mr. *Sanford.*] You think the farmers at that period were carrying on their concerns more upon fictitious capital than they are at present?—I am of that opinion.

13726. Sir *James Graham.*] You said that the state of affairs now is sound; do you think that the state of affairs in any agricultural district in Scotland during the war was sound?—No.

13727. Would you like to see a recurrence of it?—Certainly not.

13728. With all the difficulties of the present moment, do you think the Scotch farmers would like to return to war prices and the war state of affairs which proved to be so unsound?—No; they have no wish to return to that; they consider that the adjustment is now nearly completed, and that they are in a much better state than they ever were.

13729. And they would rather be let alone than tampered with?—Yes.

13730. Mr. *Cayley.*] What do you mean by the "adjustment?"—Coming from an artificial to a natural state. They consider that during the war the country was in a highly artificial state, and that it is now coming to a natural state.

13731. They have no desire for a higher range of prices?—No doubt they would be glad of it; but they would prefer the present prices and their present prospects to any alteration in the currency.

13732. Do you think an alteration in the currency would have the effect of raising the prices of agricultural produce?—Perhaps it might; but it would raise the price of everything else.

13733. It would have the effect of raising every thing?—Yes.

13734. Supposing the price of wheat was to remain at 40 *s.* a quarter, and that other agricultural produce was to remain as low in proportion, would the farmer consider that a sound and wholesome state?—He would prefer that state to any proposed alleviation of which he does not know what the result might be. If he got higher prices, but paid as much in addition for rent, wages, manufactured goods, &c., he would be no better off.

13735. There are certain expenses upon a farm which are more or less stationary?—The Scotch farmer has very much reduced his expense in every way by economy in labour and improved implements and machinery, and by an improved system altogether.

13736. Those improvements tend to make him capable of overcoming the difficulties of his situation?—No doubt of it.

13737. Supposing the price of produce to fall below the cost of production, that would not be a situation that you would call sound and wholesome for the farmer?—Certainly not.

13738. Mr. *Gordon.*] What is the usual size of the farms in your part of the country?—They are of various sizes, which I consider a great advantage; it insures a more numerous class of competitors. In Aberdeenshire there are many small farms. In Kincardineshire they are larger; and in Forfarshire of still greater extent.

13739. They are all let upon leases?—Yes.

13740. Is it usual for the proprietor to agree to pay ameliorations at the end of the lease for improvements which have been made by the tenant?—Yes; generally only on buildings, and sometimes on fences; but in Aberdeenshire it is very limited.

227

13741. Do you consider the same improvements could go on without those farms being let upon those long leases?—Certainly not.

13742. Then you consider that the best system of farming?—I do certainly.

13743. Sir *Charles Burrell.*] You stated that you should not like the currency to be interfered with; you mean by that, that the Legislature should not interfere with the currency in any way, but that they should leave you in possession of the 1 *l.* note system that prevails in Scotland without interruption; that is your meaning?—Yes, to a certain extent.

13744. You gave it as a general answer, to be applied either the one way or the other?—It is a question that I have not considered very deeply; but it does not appear to me that there is any want of money in England any more than in Scotland.

13745. Mr. *Loch.*] If you had sovereigns in Scotland instead of notes, would there be any difficulty in going on as you do now?—I do not think there would.

17346. Mr. *Cayley.*] Did you ever try the experiment of going on with sove reigns?—We have not many sovereigns.

13747. Does anybody ever think of demanding a sovereign from a banker?—Not often, but only when we are going to travel.

13748. But never for commercial purposes?—Never for commercial purposes.

13749. Mr. *Miles.*] Have the prices of produce the last three years been sufficient to pay for the cost of cultivation in Scotland?—They have.

13750. Taking the different crops, and the prices you have obtained, does it show a beneficial return to the farmer?—He is not making a great deal of money; but he is in very good spirits, and he is improving his land.

13751. His profits, though moderate, you conceive to be established upon a firm basis?—I think they are.

13752. Do you conceive that the firmness of the basis makes up for the smallness of the profit?—Yes.

13753. *Chairman.*] You are a farmer yourself?—I am.

13754. To what extent?—About 330 acres; but I have been concerned in farming all my life as a surveyor and valuator of land, and manager of estates.

13755. Where is your farm situated?—About 10 miles from Montrose.

13756. Is that a light or heavy soil?—It is rather a light soil; one-third of it is loam upon a retentive bottom; about one-third of it is a gravelly soil; the remainder is very inferior land.

13757. What is the rotation of crops upon that farm?—It is rather a long rotation; we consider a short rotation disadvantageous, as the crops recur too frequently.

13758. Will you state the rotation that you adopt?—There is the rotation of the Castle Farm of Thornton; I may again mention that about one-third of my farm is very poor land; it is a cold soil upon a rather retentive bottom, and that bottom is strongly impregnated with the oxide of iron. The rotation I follow is, first, turnip and potatoes; second, barley, with grass seed; third, pasture; fourth, pasture; fifth, pasture; sixth, pasture; then oats; then next, turnip, with bone-manure. The ninth is barley, oats or wheat; the tenth is potatoes with tares, pease, &c., dunged. That is a break which every odd thing is thrown into. The eleventh is barley or wheat, with seeds; the twelfth is red clover, and the thirteenth is oats or wheat; then comes the turnip and the barley, and then grass again. It is a 13 year rotation.

13759. Is that the common way of cropping land in that part of the country?—No, that is a rotation of my own; the common way is a five-shift course, of which there is a variety. The first is potatoes or fallow; but there is very little fallow in the country now, except in very strong stiff clays where they cannot keep the thistles out; the second is wheat; third, beans; fourth, barley; fifth, clover; sixth, oats; seventh, turnips; eighth, wheat or barley; ninth, pasture; tenth, pasture; and, eleventh, oats. That is the rotation for one farm upon an estate under my own management.

13760. What is the usual produce per acre of wheat under that farm?—I have a statement of that farm altogether; this is a statement of that farm, which contains the whole mode of operations during the year.

[*The same was delivered in, and is as follows:*]

Mr. *G. Robertson.*

4 May 1836.

KINCARDINESHIRE COAST-SIDE, OR CLAY DISTRICT.

STATE of the Expenditure and Produce of a Farm of 253 Imperial Acres; soil, a strong clay, adapted for the Wheat and Bean Husbandry; and by tile-draining, also for raising turnips. Distance from lime and markets from six to eight miles. A threshing-mill on the premises. Steading substantially built of stone and lime, and slated, and implements of most approved description.

Rotation.

Breaks.	Acres.	
1	23	18 acres potatoes - - - - } Fully manured with the produce of 5 do. tares, green food for horses } the farm.
2	23	Wheat.
3	23	Beans, half manured.
4	23	Barley.
5	23	8 acres cut for green food } Clover, with rye grass. 15 do. made into hay - }
6	23	Oats.
7	23	Turnips, by bone manure, and partly dung; turnip-tops cut down and ploughed in as manure.
8	23	7 acres wheat } Dressing of lime or rape-dust. 16 do. barley }
9	23	Pasture.
10	23	Pasture.
11	23	Oats.
	253	

Eight strong work-horses and one riding-horse kept. The land is dressed with lime or rape-dust * in the course of each rotation; that is, once every 11 years. This dressing is applied to No. 8, before laying down to grass.

Eight cows kept, which, after supplying the servants with milk, feed eight calves for the butcher, and afford 20 *l.* worth of dairy produce for the tenant's family.

The produce per acre is assumed to be:—Wheat, 34 bushels; barley, 38 bushels; beans, 34 bushels; and oats, 44 bushels; hay, 200 stones of 21 lbs. per acre; and potatoes, 25 bolls of 36 imperial stones per acre.

Twenty cattle are grazed and fattened in summer, 16 fattened on potatoes and turnip in winter, besides 20 winterings and a few pigs kept in the straw-yard. No cattle are reared on the farm.

EXPENSE OF CULTIVATION.

	£.	s.	d.
Servants' Wages.			
One foreman - - - - - - - - - - - -	18	–	–
Four ploughmen, at 12 *l.* 10 *s.* - - - - - - - - - -	50	–	–
Two men for cattle and other work - - - - - - - - -	22	–	–
One Dairy-maid - - - - - - - - - - -	6	–	–
52 bolls of oatmeal, of 10 imperial stones per boll, the produce of the farm.			
Milk for servants, the produce of the farm.			
25 bolls potatoes, the produce of the farm.			
Beer for servants in spring and harvest - - - - - -	8	–	–
Fuel and candles for bothie and stables - - - - - -	4	–	–
Sum for Servants - - - £.	108	–	–
1st Break.			
18 acres potatoes, drilled; 5 acres tares, for horses.	£.	s.	d.
Dung, the produce of the farm.			
Expense of gathering weeds and spreading dung on 23 acres of land for potatoe and tares, 2 *s.* 6 *d.* per acre - -	2	17	6
Expense of cutting seed and planting 18 acres of potatoes, 3 *s.* per acre - - - - - - - - - -	2	14	–
54 bolls seed, the produce of the farm.			
Hoeing 18 acres potatoes twice, at 4 *s.* - - - - -	3	12	–
Taking up and storing 18 acres of potatoes, at 10 *s.* - -	9	–	–
Picking and filling 100 bolls for market, at 2 ½ *d.* - -	1	–	10
Expense of driving 100 bolls to market, 25 loads at 1 *s.* 6 *d.*	1	17	6
Custom on 100 bolls potatoes, 2 *d.* per boll - - -	–	16	8
Sum for Potatoes, &c. - - -	21	18	6
Carried forward - - - £.	129	18	6

* *See* Note at the end of the State.

2d Break.

229

Mr. G. Robertson.

4 May 1836.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward - - -				129	18	6
2d Break.						
23 acres wheat, drilled.	£.	s.	d.			
Seed for 23 acres at 4 bushels per acre is 92 bushels, the produce of the farm.						
Labourers to assist in pickling and sowing ditto - -		16	-			
Reaping and stacking 23 acres wheat, at 12 *s.* 6 *d.* per acre	14	7	6			
Labourers to assist in threshing 97 qrs. 6 bshls. at 2 *d.* -		16	4			
Expense of carrying 86 ¼ quarters to market, 15 loads; tolls, 1 *s.*, men, 6 *d*, custom, 5 *d.* per load - - -	1	8	9			
Sum - - -				17	8	7
3d Break.						
23 acres beans, drilled.						
Dung, the produce of the farm.						
Carting out and spreading dung - - - - -	1	3	-			
Seed for 23 acres, 92 bushels, the produce of the farm.						
Servants to assist in sowing ditto - - - - -		6	-			
Hoeing beans twice, at 4 *s.* per acre - - - - -	4	12	-			
Harvesting 23 acres beans, at 12 *s.* per acre - - -	13	16	-			
Threshing 97 ¾ qrs., at 2 *d.* per quarter - - - -		16	-			
Carrying 86 ¼ qrs. to market, 15 loads; tolls, 1 *s.*, servants, 6 *d.*, custom, 5 *d.* per load - - - - -	1	8	9			
Sum for Beans - - -				22	1	9
4th Break.						
23 acres barley, drilled.						
Seed for 23 acres, at 4 ½ bushels per acre, being 103 ½ bushels the produce of the farm.						
Servants to assist in sowing - - - - - - -		3	-			
Reaping and stacking 23 acres, at 12 *s.* 6 *d.* - - -	14	7	6			
Labourers to assist in threshing 109 ¼ qrs. at 2 *d.* - -		18	3			
Expense of carrying 752 bushels, or 94 quarters, to market, 17 loads, at 1 *s.* 10 *d.* - - - - - - -	1	11	2			
N.B. 18 bushels drawings.						
Sum - - -				16	19	11
5th Break.						
8 acres, cut for green food; 15 acres made into hay.						
Seed for 23 acres, viz.:						
230 lb. clover, at 1 *s.* - - - - - -	11	10	-			
46 bushels rye-grass, the produce of the farm.						
Labourers in picking stones on 23 acres, at 1 *s.* 6 *d.* - -	1	14	6			
	£.	s.	d.			
Mowing 15 acres hay, at 2 *s.* - - -	1	10	-			
Making - - - - - - -	1	10	-			
Stacking - - - - - - -	1	10	-			
Sum - - -	4	10	-			
Carrying 2,000 stones hay to market, 16 loads; tolls, 1 *s.*, steelyard, 6 *d.*, men, 6 *d.*, custom, 1 *d.*; in all, 2 *s.* 1 *d.* per ld.	1	13	4			
N.B. 1,000 stones hay used on the farm.						
Sum - - -				19	7	10
6th Break.						
23 acres, oats.						
Seed for 23 acres, at 5 bushels per acre, 115 bushels, or 14 ⅜ qrs., the produce of the farm.						
Labourer to assist in sowing - - - - - - -		3	-			
Reaping and stacking 23 acres, at 12 *s.* 6 *d.* per acre - -	14	7	6			
Labourers to assist in threshing 1,012 bushels, or 126 ½ qrs. at 2 *d.* - - - - - - - - - -	1	1	1			
Carrying 32 qrs. to market, 6 loads at 1 *s.* 10 *d.* - - -		11	-			
N.B. 80 ⅜ qrs., including drawings, consumed by horses.						
Sum - - -				16	2	7
Carried forward - - - £.				221	19	2

Mr. *G. Robertson.*

4 May 1836.

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Brought forward - - -				221	19	2
7th Break.						
23 acres turnips, drilled; tops cut off and ploughed in for manure.						
Seed - - - - - - - - - - - -	3	–	–			
Dung, from the farm.						
Bone manure, say - - - - - - - - -	40	–	–			
Labourers for weeding, filling and spreading dung and bone manure on 23 acres, at 2 *s.* 6 *d.* per acre - - -	2	17	6			
Hoeing 23 acres twice, at 4 *s.* - - - - - -	4	12	–			
Extra labourers for pulling turnip, &c. - - - -	1	3	–			
Sum for Turnips - - -				51	12	6
8th Break.						
7 acres wheat } Drilled. 16 do. barley }						
Seed for 7 acres of wheat, the produce of the farm, 28 bshls. or 3 ½ qrs.						
Seed for 16 acres barley, at 4 ½ bushels per acre, 72 bshls. or 9 qrs., the produce of the farm.						
Labourer to assist in sowing barley, and in pickling and sowing wheat - - - - - - - - -	–	13	–			
Dressing of lime or rape-dust, say 50 *s.* - - - -	57	10	–			
Reaping and stacking 23 acres, at 12 *s.* 6 *d.* - - -	14	7	6			
Labourers to assist in threshing 238 bushels, or 29 ⅝ qrs. wheat, at 2 *d.* - - - - - - - - -	–	5	–			
Carrying 26 ¼ qrs. to market, 5 loads at 2 *s.* - - -	–	10	–			
Threshing 76 quarters barley, at 2 *d.* - - - - -	–	12	8			
Carrying 66 quarters barley to market, 11 loads at 1 *s.* 10 *d.*	1	–	2			
N.B. Eight bushels drawings. The rape dust may be applied either to No. 2, or No. 8.						
Sum - - -				74	18	4
9th Break.						
23 acres pasture.						
230 lbs. clover-seed, at 1 *s.* - - - - - - -	11	10	–			
46 bushels perennial rye-grass, not raised on the farm, at 4 *s.*	9	4	–			
46 lbs. yellow clover, at 6 *d.* - - - - - - -	1	3	–			
Picking stones, at 1 *s.* - - - - - - - -	1	3	–			
N.B. The annual expense of enclosing with paling or flakes included in the miscellaneous branch.						
Sum - - -				23	–	–
10th Break.						
23 acres pasture.						
11th Break.						
23 acres oats.						
Seed for 23 acres, at 5 bushels per acre, 115 bushels, or 14 ⅜ qrs., produce of farm.						
Labourers to assist in sowing - - - - - - -	–	3	–			
Reaping and stacking 23 acres, at 12 *s.* 6 *d.* - - -	14	7	6			
Threshing 1,012 bushels, or 126 ½ qrs., at 2 *d.* - - -	1	1	1			
Carrying 112 ⅛ qrs. to market, 17 loads, at 1 *s.* 10 *d.* - -	1	11	2			
Sum - - -				17	2	9
Cattle and Pigs.						
46 acres pasture.						
23 do. aftermath.						
23 do. turnips, and all the straw on the farm.						
201 bolls potatoes for cattle.						
20 do. ditto - for pigs.						
N.B. The buying-in price of the cattle is not stated in the expenditure; only the profit realised by grazing and fattening.						
Carried forward - - - £.				388	12	9

231

Mr. G. Robertson.

4 May 1836.

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Brought forward - - -				388	12	9
Horses.						
5 acres tares.						
8 do. cut clover.						
50 bolls potatoes						
80 ⅛ quarters oats, including drawings.						
26 bushels barley drawings.						
1,000 stones hay, and the straw of 23 acres of beans, and what barley and oat-straw is required.						
Miscellaneous Expenses.						
Tenant's expense at markets, &c. - - - - -				8	10	–
Driving cattle to and from markets, including custom and servants' expenses - - - - - - - -				1	–	–
Furrow-draining, say, annually - - - - -				12	–	–
Scouring ditches, repairing roads, &c. - - - -				4	10	–
Expense of repairing old and adding new paling, yearly -				12	10	–
Annual repairs to farm-buildings, threshing-mill, &c. -				4	4	–
Insurance on buildings, stocking, &c., say - - -				3	5	–
Mole and rat-catcher, yearly - - - - - -				1	12	6
Farrier and cow-doctor - - - - - - -				2	15	–
Blacksmith's account, viz.	£.	s.	d.			
For horses - - - - - -	6	10	–			
Carts - - - - - -	3	–	–			
Harrows, ploughs, &c. - -	6	10	–			
Sundries - - - - - -	3	–	–			
Sum - - -				19	–	–
Carpenter, for repairs to farm implements - - -				3	10	–
Saddler's account, for repairs to harness - - - -				2	15	–
Road-money, school salary, &c. - - - - -				3	15	–
Assessed taxes - - - - - - - - -				3	3	–
Sundry small disbursements, say - - - - -				4	–	–
N.B. Brewer's account charged against hired servants.						
Sum - - -						86 9 6
Wear and tear of nine horses, value 270*l.*, replaced every 12 years - - - - - - - - -				17	–	–
Old horses sold for 54*l.*, which is about equal to the amount of an annuity of 3*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* for 12 years, to be deducted				3	7	6
Leaves - - -				13	12	6
Wear and tear of implements of husbandry, carts, ploughs, harrows, rollers, drill-machines, spades, forks, corn-bags, &c. &c., value 160*l.* renewed every 10 years - - -				12	17	6
Tear and wear of harness, value 60*l.*, renewed every 10 years				4	16	–
Threshing-mill, &c., value 140*l.*, renewed every 30 years -				2	3	2
Tear and wear of servants' bedding, &c. - - - -				2	–	–
Sum - - -						35 9 2
Allowed for interest of capital, say 1,600*l.*, and tenant's superintendence						200 – –
In this sum is included the cost of threshing-mill, and a small sum in the hands of the tenant's banker, to enable him to go advantageously to market.						
£.						710 11 5

The cost of working an acre by the ordinary course of farm-operations is thus about 56*s.*

Mr. G. Robertson.

4 May 1836.

PRODUCE.

	£.	s.	d.
Cattle.			
20 cattle fed in summer, at 90*s.* a head	90	–	–
16 do. fed in winter on turnip, at 6*l.* a head	96	–	–
20 do. wintered in straw-yard, at 50*s.*	50	–	–
Pigs sold	15	–	–
8 calves fed, at 50*s.*	20	–	–
Poultry and sundries	10	–	–
Surplus dairy produce	10	–	–
Sum for Cattle	291	–	–
1. *Potatoes and Tares.*			
54 bolls for seed.			
50 do. for horses.			
25 do. for servants.			
20 do. for pigs.			
201 do. for cattle.			
100 do. sold at 8*s.*	40	–	–
450			
2. *Wheat.*			
11½ quarters for seed.			
86¼ - do - sold, at 45*s.*	194	1	3
97¾			
3. *Beans.*			
11½ quarters for seed.			
86¼ - do. - sold, at 30*s.*	129	7	6
97¾			
4. *Barley.*			
2¼ quarters drawings.			
12 15/16 - do. - for seed.			
94 - do. - sold, at 30 *s.*	141	–	–
109¼			
5. *Hay, cut for Green Food, and made into Hay.*			
1,000 stones for horses.			
2,000 do. sold, at 8*s.*	66	13	4
3,000			
6. *Oats.*			
14⅜ quarters for seed.			
80⅛ - do. - for horses.			
32 - do. - sold, at 22*s.*	35	4	–
126½			
7. *Turnip.*			
Consumed by Cattle.			
8. *Barley and Wheat.*			
9 quarters barley for seed.			
1 - do. - do. drawings for horses.			
66 - do. - do. sold, at 30 *s.*	99	–	–
76			
Carried forward £.	996	6	1

	£.	s.	d.
Brought forward - - -	996	6	1
3½ quarters wheat for seed.			
26¼ do. - do. sold, at 45s. - - - - - - - -	59	1	3
29¾			
9. *Grass.*			
Pastured by cattle.			
10. *2d Year's Grass.*			
Pastured by cattle.			
11. *Oats.*			
14⅜ quarters for seed.			
112⅛ - do. - sold, at 22s. - - - - - - - -	123	6	9
126½			
Dwelling-house occupied by tenant - - - - - - -	20	–	–
Four cottages, at 30s. - - - - - - - - -	6	–	–
	1,204	14	1
	710	11	5
Leaves for Rent - - - £.	494	2	8

This leaves for rent, 494*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.*, being about 39*s.* per Imperial acre, or 49*s.* per Scots.

Cost of Production where no Rent is Paid.

Cattle.	£.	s	d.
20 cattle can be fed in summer for 50*s.* a head - - - - -	50	–	–
16 do. in winter, fed on turnip, 60*s.* - - - - - -	48	–	–
20 do. can be wintered in straw-yard, at 27*s.* - - - - -	27	–	–
60 stone pigs, sold at 3*s.* per stone - - - - - - -	9	–	–
8 calves fed, at 30*s.* - - - - - - - - - -	12	–	–
Poultry and sundries - - - - - - - - - -	7	–	–
Surplus dairy produce - - - - - - - - - -	7	–	–
Sum for Cattle - - - £.	160	–	–
1. *Potatoes.*			
201 bolls for cattle.			
54 do. for seed.			
50 do. for horses.			
25 do. for servants.			
20 do. for pigs.			
100 do. sold, at 4*s.* - - - - - - - -	20	–	–
450			
2. *Wheat.*			
11½ quarters for seed.			
86¼ - do - sold, at 28*s.* 6*d.* - - - - - - -	122	18	1½
97¾			
3. *Beans.*			
11½ quarters for seed.			
86¼ - do. - sold, at 17*s.* 6*d.* - - - - - - -	75	9	4½
97¾			
Carried forward - - - £.	378	7	6

Mr. *G. Robertson.*

4 May 1836.

	£.	s.	d.
Brought forward - - -	378	7	6
4. Barley.			
2 ½ quarters drawings.			
12 15/16 - do. - for seed.			
94 - do. - sold, at 18 *s.* 6 *d.* - - - - - - - - -	86	19	–
109 ¼			
5. Hay.			
1,000 stones for horses (21 lb. per stone).			
2,000 do. sold, at 3 *d.* - do. - - - - - - - -	25	–	–
3,000			
6. Oats.			
14 ⅜ quarters for seed.			
80 ⅛ - do. - for horses.			
32 - do. - sold, at 13 *s.* 6 *d.* - - - - - - -	21	12	–
126 ½			
7. Turnip.			
8. Barley and Wheat.			
9 quarters barley for seed.			
1 - do. - drawings for horses.			
66 - do. - sold, at 18 *s.* 6 *d.* - - - - - - - - -	61	1	–
76			
3 ½ do. - wheat for seed.			
26 ¼ do. - do. - sold, at 28 *s.* 6 *d.* - - - - - -	37	8	1 ½
29 ¾			
9. Grass.			
Pastured.			
10. Second Year's Grass.			
Pastured.			
11. Oats.			
14 ⅜ quarters for seed.			
112 ⅛ - do. - sold, at 13 *s.* 6 *d.* - - - - - - - -	75	13	8
126 ½			
Dwelling-house occupied by tenant - - - - - - - -	20	–	–
Four cottages, at 30 *s.* - - - - - - - - -	6	–	–
£	712	1	3 ½

By this state it appears that cattle can be fattened in summer for 50 *s.* a head, and in winter for 60 *s.*, and wintered in the yards for 27 *s.* a head. Wheat can be raised for 28 *s.* 6 *d.* a quarter, beans for 17 *s.* 6 *d.*, barley for 18 *s.* 6 *d.*, and oats for 13 *s.* 6 *d.*; hay for 3 *d.* a stone, and potatoes for 4 *s.* a boll.

Note.—The above state is drawn up from the practice followed on a farm in Kincardineshire; but, owing to the farm being situated on the coast, the tenant has a supply of sea-weed for manure, by which there is a saving in the expense of rape-dust and bone manure, as here stated, to the extent, perhaps, of 40 *l.* yearly. The tenant, however, pays all the saving thus effected in additional rent, his rent being, in fact, 542 *l.*, instead of the sum exhibited in the state. The calves, instead of being fed for the butcher, are sometimes reared and fattened when rising three years old.

13761. Mr. *Heathcote.*] Are you in the habit of sending a great quantity of cattle to England?—We have always done so.

13762. Do you send lean cattle?—Not so much as formerly; the markets are very much altered of late; the Scotch farmer now, in consequence of the introduction of the bone manure and grass husbandry, rears his cattle and sends them up fat.

13763. Then the quantity of fat cattle you have lately sent to the English market is very considerable?—Yes.

13764. Have you any idea of what quantity are sent?—I could not state the number.

13765. You stated that one part of the amelioration of the occupying farmers was in consequence of the corn rents which have lately been adopted in Scotland?—That has relieved them very much.

13766. Then you consider that that system is peculiarly favourable to the tenant?—I think it is.

13767. More favourable to the tenant than to the landlord?—I do not know that; it certainly relieves the tenant a good deal, but there is generally a maximum for rent, and sometimes a minimum below which it does not descend.

13768. But generally speaking, that is considered a relief to the tenant?—It is considered a very fair mode of letting land; but if there is no maximum, it cuts very deep upon the tenant in an unfavourable season.

13769. Sir *James Graham.*] Has not that change of practice in those counties by feeding their cattle on the farms and sending them fat, instead of sending them lean to England, led to the production of a much greater quantity of manure upon the farms?—No doubt of it.

13770. Has not the application of that manure led to a great increase of produce?—No question of it.

13771. You have been asked with reference to the price of wheat governing the price of meat, can you anticipate a very great falling off in the price of meat when you consider that the population of this country is increasing so rapidly, and that the manufacturing employment of that population is so great as it is at present?—No; I think the price of agricultural produce must keep up; that is to say, if the manufacturing classes prosper and live as they are doing.

13772. Therefore though wheat should be imported free of duty, and the price of wheat should very materially fall, you cannot anticipate a corresponding fall in the price of meat, considering the increase of the population and the extensive employment of the manufacturing population?—I cannot answer that question without thinking of it.

13773. But you are not prepared to say that the price of wheat in present circumstances governs the price of meat?—No, I do not think it does; I do not think the price of any one kind of farm-produce governs another; it depends very much upon the state of other great interests, and whether these interests are in a thriving state or not.

13774. Is there any great difference in the price of the same agricultural produce in Scotland and in England?—No.

13775. Therefore though those commodities are paid for in England in sovereigns, and in Scotland in 1 *l.* notes, there cannot be permanently any great difference in the price of the same commodities in the two countries, with a regulated exchange and interchange of commodities?—No, I think not; I think the price of produce is nearly the same in England as in Scotland.

13776. Then in two countries so circumstanced, with a free interchange of commodities, and a regulated money exchange, you cannot contemplate a permanent difference of price maintained by 1 *l.* notes in the one as contrasted with payments made by sovereigns in the other?—No, I think not; I think that is more a matter of theory than of reality.

13777. Mr. *Loch.*] Montrose is a large corn market?—It is one of the largest in Scotland, and I believe there is scarcely any larger in England.

13778. Do you always look at the prices in Mark-lane?—Invariably; that is the first thing; the purchasers are regulated very much by that.

13779. Have you ever turned your attention to the present corn-laws and how they affect prices?—Yes, I have thought a little of them.

13780. Is it your opinion that it is a system that is perfect in itself?—I think it seems to work very well.

Mr. *G. Robertson.*

4 May 1836.

13781. Do you think it produces a steadier price than a fixed duty would do?—I do not know; a fixed duty would be liable to be tampered with upon any clamour about a bad crop. The pressure from without would perhaps influence the Legislature, and therefore I think we are better as we are.

13782. Sir *Robert Price.*] But practically when it becomes a very high price the ports are almost open now?—I believe they are.

13783. You have mentioned that you suffered great loss one year in consequence of paying partly a corn rent?—That was in 1826, what we call the dry season, all over England and Scotland; also, the wheat farmers gained very materially that year, but other farmers suffered much.

13784. Is the corn rent paid exactly according to the price of corn in any one year, or is it divided over a number of years?—It is generally paid according to one year, or according to the fiar's price of the crop for that year; it is not generally thrown over a number of years.

13785. How do you regulate the corn rent?—By a jury that examine witnesses upon the prices paid, and the quantity purchased or sold, and strike an average.

13786. And you pay the year's rent according to the price of that year's corn?—Those that have corn rents pay so much to account at the first term of payment, and the balance at the next term of payment, as determined according to the fiars of the year.

13787. Mr. *Miles.*] In the three counties with which you are acquainted is there, generally speaking, a maximum of corn rent?—There is.

13788. What is that?—Generally 6 *l.* for the three quarters, what we call the triple quarter, consisting of one quarter of wheat, a quarter of barley, and a quarter of oats: that is about 60 *s.* for wheat, 33 *s.* 4 *d.* for barley, and 26 *s.* 8 *d.* for oats.

13789. What is the minimum?—It varies; in some cases there is no minimum; but 6 *l.* or the rate of conversion is usually the maximum.

13790. Mr. *Loch.*] What is the mode in which they strike the average?—The sheriff empannels a jury, and examines the corn-merchants.

13791. Are the tenants examined also?—The quantity they would give in would hardly affect the average; the greater part of the year's growth is given in by half a dozen corn-merchants; so that taking the farmers' evidence would be only taking the same evidence twice or over again.

13792. Are they struck according to the corn that is grown within the county, or the corn that is sold in the market?—The corn within the county the corn-merchants take a note of whom they buy from. The Montrose market is in one corner of the county of Forfar, adjoining to Kincardineshire; it is open to, or frequented by, the farmers of both Forfar and Kincardineshire, and the merchants easily keep a separate account of what they buy in the different counties. What is grown in Kincardineshire is given in evidence in Kincardineshire, and what is grown in Forfarshire is given in evidence in Forfarshire.

13793. Do they pursue the same course in Forfarshire?—Yes.

13794. The sheriff summons a jury, and those persons are examined upon oath?—They are examined upon oath, and they generally give in an account of their purchases during the year, and the average price of those purchases.

13795. Sir *Robert Price.*] How is the expense of that process paid?—I am generally upon the jury, and I get nothing for it.

13796. Nor the witnesses either?—No; it is quite voluntary on the part of the witnesses to attend in a different county; but the sheriff can enforce their attendance as witnesses for the county in which they reside.

13797. You mentioned that you have in your course of husbandry four years of grass; do the second and third and fourth years all turn out productive?—Yes; but the break is also grazed the first year.

13798. Do you mow the second year?—No; the whole four years are fed. The break which is mowed is only one year in red clover and rye-grass, and is broken up immediately after.

13799. Sir *James Graham.*] After the second year do not the artificial grasses begin to die out?—No; the pasture improves.

13800. Does it go on improving till the fourth year?—I find that by grazing with sheep particularly it improves the pasture very much; and the great advantage

advantage of that rotation is, that I have generally more stock, and that gives an increased quantity of manure.

13801. The largest produce is the first year of seeds, is not it?—The first year's grass, of course, is always the best.

13802. Is the fourth year better than the second for pasture?—Generally it is; the third and fourth are better than the second; but the advantage that I find from this rotation and the grazing is, that it enables the break to stand a longer course of cropping afterwards.

13803. In the first year do you graze with sheep?—Chiefly with cattle. There is no grass that pays so well as the first year's grass; the cattle feed better upon it.

13804. Do you turn them out, or cut it for the cattle?—Always turn them out.

13805. Is your land perfectly dry; does not it poach the first year of seeds with heavy cattle?—No; it does not poach.

13806. That practice would not do upon any land that was not perfectly dry?—The great thing is to drain it first.

13807. Is not it a retentive clay?—Part of it is.

13808. Do you graze your heavy clay lands in that way?—Sometimes.

13809. Sir *Robert Price.*] Generally you feed it with cattle and with sheep?—Cattle is the staple of our stock; that is upon my own farm.

13810. What seeds do you sow?—When I sow for one year's grass I sow a large proportion of red clover and rye-grass; for the four years it is chiefly red and white clover, with some natural seeds and rye-grass; but the natural seeds are not generally sown with us. The rotation on my farm is by no means a general rotation in the district; the five-shift course is more common.

13811. Will you state the five-shift course?—First, turnips; second, barley; third and fourth, grass, generally pastured; and fifth, oats.

13812. *Chairman.*] Are you at all acquainted with the mode of management of land in England?—Not particularly; but I have travelled a good deal in England, and have been always observing it, and as a farmer, and as being conversant with these matters, have seen a good deal of it in going about.

13813. Having observed the state of the land by the side of the high roads, do you think that the farming in England is as perfect as it might be?—I do not think so?—There is one thing that strikes me very strongly as to the management in England, and that is, that generally in large farms there is a certain proportion of grass land that is devoted exclusively to grazing sheep, the other part of the farm is under a rotation for cropping, generally far too severe. The rotation is frequently a six-shift course, and very few cattle are kept. It occurs to me that the rotation should embrace also a grass course, which would enable the farmer to rear cattle, to feed them, to consume his straw, and by having a greater portion of land under turnip and potatoes, to increase the quantity of the dung, and improve the quality of it, by which means the land would be kept in better order. I cannot see, by the system followed generally by the English farmer, how he can get dung for manuring his fallow breaks.

13814. Your opinion is that the English farms are generally over-cropped by the corn crops?—That is decidedly my opinion. By introducing two or three years' grass in his rotation, and by rearing cattle along with his sheep, the English farmer would materially improve the condition of his farm.

13815. By that mode of management you double the fertility of the soil; the land recovers itself while it is at rest under the grass crop, and you enable the farmer to raise a greater quantity of manure, which he may place upon the land?—Yes; and there would also be a great return from the cattle.

13816. Do you conceive that you grow your corn crops at considerably less expense by your system of management than they do in England?—No question of it; and we have a return from our cattle also.

13817. Do you think that system of management might be made applicable to the cold wet clay land of England with advantage?—I think the potato husbandry might be introduced after draining with advantage; they may fatten a great deal with potatoes.

13818. Do not you think it is perfectly hopeless to attempt to farm the clay land by merely cropping it with a grain crop without a sufficient quantity of grass land and of stock?—I think even upon the cold clays grass might be introduced; we grow the finest turnips upon clay land; and the objection to

Mr. *G. Robertson.*
4 May 1836.

poaching the land is done away with by storing them before frost sits in. The turnips carried home are given to the cattle tied up for fattening, and also to those in the straw yards.

13819. Then any system of management upon clay land without a sufficient quantity of stock must lead to the ruin of the farmer?—No question of it. There is another thing I beg to point out. The English farmers complain very much of the rot in the sheep; by removing those sheep and pasturing them upon the convertible breaks they would perhaps get clear of it.

13820. Mr. *Loch.*] Do you find that, for the purpose of preventing rot, shifting the sheep is material?—I think all pastures that are long grazed upon by sheep get foul, and that by grazing the permanent grass land with cattle, and removing the sheep to the convertible grass land would be a great improvement; but I speak with considerable diffidence upon sheep farming, because I am not very conversant with it.

13821. Earl of *Lincoln.*] You are not of opinion that any change of pasture would be sufficient to prevent the rot if the whole farm consisted of low clay land?—Not without changing them about very often.

13822. In the fens of Lincolnshire, for instance?—No, I do not think it would.

13823. *Chairman.*] Not after draining?—That would make a great difference; but in England there is a great deal of land in permanent grass in the bottoms, while the poor upland soils are uncultivated. Now it might be an improvement to remove the sheep to the high land and to cultivate the low land, or graze it by cattle which the rot does not affect.

13824. Mr. *Miles.*] What quantity of potatoes per imperial acre do you conceive that you can grow upon drained clay land, taking the average of years?—I think about six to eight tons an acre.

13825. What quantity of Swedish turnips?—I could not exactly speak as to the weight; perhaps 20 or 25 tons.

13826. What would be the fattening qualities of the potatoes as compared with the turnip?—I should think the Swedish turnips and the potatoes are about equal, but the potatoe would have the advantage of any other kind of turnip.

[*The Witness gave in the following:*]

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES on Labour, Rotations, Rent, Produce, &c.

Trench ploughing, with six horses, 30 *s.* per acre.

Subsoil ploughing, with four horses in a plough in front, and with six in the subsoil plough, 40 *s.* or 45 *s.*; but when trenching by the spade can be done to the depth of 16 inches for 4 *l.* or 5 *l.* per acre, it is decidedly preferable.

Pressers drill three acres of light land daily; one horse is sufficient; by this means two or three pecks an acre is saved in seed, and the crop comes up more equally, and is five or six days earlier than when sown broad-cast.

Kirkwood's grubber, with four horses, or three abreast, will grub six acres daily; excellent for middle furrowing and preparing turnip land.

A pair of horses cost yearly for maintenance about 50 *l.*

Bone manure, from 12 to 25 bushels an acre, 2 *s.* 4 *d.* to 2 *s.* 7 *d.* per bushel.

Rape dust, half a ton, about 50 *s.*; dressing for an acre.

Lime, if applied for top-dressing, along with grass seeds, 10 bolls at 3 *s.*, for light soils.

Lime, a full dose for light soils, 25 bolls; for clays, 40.

Increased cultivation since 1816, at least 3 per cent.

Improved cultivation since 1816, at least four bushels an acre.

Not so much wheat grown by two-fifths as during war; often grown on light soils, not applicable; now succeeded by barley.

About one-third or two-fifths more turnips grown since introduction of bone manure than before it.

About one-third or two-fifths more barley grown since 1816.

About one-third more land in grass.

About one-third or two-fifths more cattle fattened since 1816, taking increased weight into consideration.

Increased value of fat cattle by the opening of the English market, by steam-vessels, to the Scots farmer, about 10 to 15 per cent.

Rotations for deep rich Loams.

Turnip, 1; barley, 2; red clover, 3; oats, 4.

For Clays.

Potatoes, 1; wheat or barley, 2; beans or turnips, 3; barley, 4; clover, 5; oats, 6.

Variety.

Potatoes, fallow, &c., 1; wheat, 2; beans, 3; barley, 4; clover, 5; oats, 6; turnip, 7; wheat, barley, 8; pasture, 9; pasture, 10; oats, 11.

Variety.

Turnip, beet or potatoes, 1; barley, 2; grass, 3; grass, 4; oats, 5; potatoes or beans, 6; wheat or barley, 7.

Light Soils.

Turnip, 1; barley, 2; grass, 3; grass, 4; oats, 5.

Variety.

Turnip or potatoes, 1; barley or wheat, 2; red clover or hay, 3; oats, 4; turnips, 5; barley, 6; grass, 7; grass, 8; grass, 9; oats, 10.

Rotation on second-rate land in Middle Districts.

Turnip, 1; barley, 2; grass, 3; grass, 4; grass, 5; oats, 6; barley or oats, 7.

Rotation on Castle Farm, of Thornton.

Turnip, 1; barley, 2; pasture, 3; pasture, 4; pasture, 5; pasture, 6; oats, 7; turnip, with bone manure, 8; barley or wheat, 9; potatoes, with tares, pease, &c., dunged, 10; barley or wheat, 11; red clover, 12; oats, 13.

In laying land to grass to be cut for green food or hay, about 8 lb. red clover, 1 lb. yellow, and 2 lb. of white clover, with 1 ½ bushels best Pacey's seed for light soils; for clays, 12 lb. clover, and one bushel rye-grass is sufficient.

In laying down for pasture to lie three or four years; light soils 2 lb. perennial seed, 2 lb. biennial seed, 4 lb. white, 2 lb. yellow, two bushels best perennial rye-grass, is usually given; some add two or three sorts natural seeds, but this is not general.

On strong clays, 380 stones of 14 lb. is a good crop of hay; on light loams, 280. These are above average crops.

Aberdeenshire.—Farm of 200 acres; cost of working an acre of light land, including interest of capital, 40*s.*

Forfarshire.—Farm of 300 acres, light soil; cost of working an acre, including interest on capital, 48*s.* 8*d.*

Forfar and Kincardineshires.—Farm of strong clay of 253 acres; cost of working, with interest, about 56*s.*

Tile Drains.

	d.
Four-inch tiles cost, per yard	1 ¼
Bottoms	¾
Casting and filling drains	1
Per yard	3

Or at 11 yards apart, there is 440 yards of drain in an acre.

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Cost of bricks, say	2	6	–
Bottoms	1	8	–
Casting, filling, &c.	1	16	–
	£ 10		

But if without bottoms, only 4*l.* 2*s.*

The expense of tile-draining of course varies, according to the size of the tiles and the distance between the drains; but the above is the medium size of tiles, and distance of drains from each other.

Wedge-draining varies in expense in like manner, according to the distance the drains are apart, and the materials used in the construction: the expense varies from 1 ½ *d.* to 2 *d.* per yard.

Rent and Produce, per Acre.

Aberdeenshire may be said to be unenclosed, devoid of any kind of shelter, and exposed to all the vicissitudes of a precarious climate. Much of the soil is poor, light land, the remains of peat mosses. Notwithstanding, the average rent of the arable acre of land may be about 13*s.*, and if enclosed and sheltered, would fetch 4*s.* to 8*s.* additional, according to circumstances. Infield, 27 to 36. Outfield, 4 to 16.

The average produce, in Aberdeenshire, may be per acre, of barley, 30; of beans, 33; and of oats, about 30 bushels; but on good soils the produce is much greater.

Only about one-eighth of Kincardineshire is enclosed; but the soil is generally pretty strong, and inclined to clay; the rent per acre is 20*s.*; if enclosed, it would be worth 4*s.* to 6*s.* per acre more.

The average produce in Kincardineshire may be per acre, of wheat, 32; of barley, 32; and of oats, about 34 bushels.

Of

Mr. *G. Robertson.*

4 May 1836.

Of Forfarshire about two-thirds is enclosed; the soil is partly a rich clay, but generally a good sound loam or gravelly soil, on an open bottom; the average rent is about 24 *s.* to 26 *s.* per acre.

The average produce in Forfarshire may be, per acre, of wheat, 34; of barley, 34; and of oats, about 36 bushels.

In order to show the increase in cultivation, and in the number of live stock, it may be mentioned, that in our parish in Kincardineshire, in which it was necessary to make some minute statistical inquiries in 1835, the following was:

	1807.	1835.
Arable acres	9,208	11,330
Cattle of one, two and three years old	1,575	2,605
Calves reared	580	787
Sheep in the parish	2,500	3,815
Swine	30	778

In Scotland, two horses are considered fully sufficient for cultivating 75 acres of light loam, or 55 acres of clay land, in medium situations; and a pair of horses will plough an acre of grass land, or 1 ¼ acres of middle furrowing a day, working 10 hours.

A pair of horses with a roller of proper construction, will roll 16 acres a day.

Stocking of Farms.

An improved grain farm may be stocked for about 4 *l.* 10 *s.* per acre; and a farm adapted for grass and turnip husbandry requires perhaps 5 *l.* 10 *s.* per acre.

Proprietor's Outlay, viz.

On improved estates the outlay for farm buildings, roads, &c. may be one rent every 19 years, or 5 per cent. annually.

On improvable estates, two and a half rents for the first and perhaps second lease of 19 years, or 12 ½ per cent. on rental annually.

Rate of Labour, and Cost of Mechanical Work.

Masons per day, in summer, 2 *s.* 6 *d.* to 3 *s.*; winter, 2 *s.* to 2 *s.* 6 *d.* Carpenters, per day, in summer, 2 *s.* 6 *d.*; winter, 2 *s.* All without victuals.

Plasterers and slaters generally work by the piece.

Rubble mason work, when carriages and price of materials are included, generally costs, per rood of 36 ells, from 6 *l.* 10 *s.* to 7 *l.* 10 *s.* When materials and carriages are afforded, the price of labour per rood is from 30 *s.* to 36 *s.*, with an additional charge for hewn work, levelling the walls, &c.

A double horse cart costs from 10 *l.* 10 *s.* to 12 *l.*; a plough, 3 *l.* to 3 *l.* 10 *s.*; a pair of harrows, 1 *l.* 2 *s.*; a full mounted roller, by which a pair of horses can go over 16 acres daily, 10 *l.*; a Kirkwood's grubber, by which two men and four horses can do six acres daily, 10 *l.*; a presser, 6 *l.* to 8 *l.*; subsoil plough, 6 *l.* to 8 *l.* and 12 *l.*; trench plough, 6 *l.* to 8 *l.* and 10 *l.*

Mr. *Thomas Boniface,* called in; and further Examined.

Mr. *T. Boniface.*

13827. *Chairman.*] HAVE you prepared a statement of the expenses and the returns upon an acre of clay land?—I have prepared an estimate of the returns and expenses of an acre of heavy clay land in the county of Sussex, for a period of 10 years.

13828. Is that the actual statement of the expenditure of any farm within your knowledge?—It is what I conceive to be a correct statement.

13829. Is it a farm under your own management?—Not under my own management, but a farm in which I have assisted to superintend for several years to within the last two years.

13830. Have the goodness to deliver in that statement.

[*The same was delivered in, and is as follows:*]

AN ESTIMATE of the RETURNS and EXPENSES of an Acre of heavy Clay Land in the county of *Sussex*, for a period of Four Years.

Expenses.	£.	s.	d.
First year; fallow for wheat:			
Four times ploughed	2	8	–
Eight times drag-harrowed	–	10	8
Drawing out manure	–	8	–
Poor-rate, highway and church-rate	–	4	–
Second year; wheat:			
Sack of seed wheat	1	–	–
Sowing and water-furrowing	–	1	–
Weeding and hedge-trimming	–	1	–
Reaping and harvesting	–	14	–

	£.	s.	d.
Second year; wheat:—*continued*			
Thrashing 18 bushels of wheat, at 4 *d.* per bushel	–	6	–
Market expenses and carrying out	–	3	6
Poor-rate, &c.	–	4	–
Third year; oats:			
Once ploughed	–	15	–
Six times drag-harrowed	–	8	–
Once rolled	–	–	8
Six bushels of seed oats, at 2 *s.* 6 *d.*	–	15	–
Mowing and harvesting	–	4	6
Carrying out and market expenses	–	3	–
Poor-rate, &c.	–	4	–
Fourth year; ley:			
Charge of grass-seed	–	9	–
Composition for agistment		3	–
Poor-rate, &c.	–	4	–
£.	9	6	4

Proceeds for Four Years.

First year; fallow.			
Second year; wheat:			
Eighteen bushels, after deducting tithe, at 5 *s.*	4	10	–
Third year; oats:			
Thirty-two and a half bushels, after deducting tithe, at 2 *s.* 6 *d.*	4	1	3
Fourth year; grass ley:			
Value of feed	1	10	–
£.	10	1	3

In the above estimate no allowance is made for rent, land-tax, or repair of buildings, nor for interest of the occupier's capital.

13831. Is the amount of labour that you have put down in your statement the same amount that is employed upon that farm?—It is as near as I can calculate.

13832. The produce per acre of wheat and oats and grass; these are, according to your knowledge, the average production?—Yes, they are.

13833. Does that statement include the produce of stock?—Very little stock is kept upon that description of land. I wish it to be understood that I confine that calculation entirely to the worst of the heavy description of clay land that we have in Sussex, and I have merely brought it to show the impossibility of cultivating heavy clay land with the price of 5*s.* a bushel.

13834. Is that clay land wet land?—Very wet.

13835. Has any attempt been made to drain it?—Very little; the expense attending the draining of that land would be very great indeed, on account of the stiffness of its nature, and the difficulty of removing it to form the drains.

13836. Has draining been carried on in your neighbourhood to any extent?—It has not, except in the hop gardens.

13837. What has been the expense of draining an acre of land in the hop gardens?—The draining used there is generally frith grown in the copses and stone. Where land has been effectually drained it has cost from 2*l.* to 3*l.* an acre.

13838. Sir *Charles Burrell.*] Is that stone drainage?—No, stone and frith; the using of frith of course reduces the expense.

13839. *Chairman.*] You never tried draining with the plough?—No.

13840. Nor with tiles?—No.

13841. This land will not grow turnips?—Certainly not.

13842. There is very little stock kept upon the farm?—Very little indeed; it is dangerous to keep sheep on account of the rot.

13843. Do not you apprehend that if this land was properly drained that

Mr. *T. Boniface.*

4 May 1836

danger would cease?—Hardly; it is so particularly marshy in its nature that I fear there would be great risk.

13844. Mr. *Miles.*] You have not a sufficient fall to take the water off?—Not in many situations.

13845. From your knowledge of the land, is not it susceptible of great improvement, supposing more capital was laid out upon it?—It is.

13846. Sir *Charles Burrell.*] Have you heard anything of the Pearson draining?—No, I have not.

Veneris, 6° die Maii 1836.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Shaw Lefevre.	Mr. Robert Clive.
Mr. Evans.	Sir Robert Price.
Mr. Loch.	Sir James Graham.
Mr. Handley.	Mr. Wodehouse.
The O'Conor Don.	Mr. Cayley.
Mr. Young.	

MR. SHAW LEFEVRE, IN THE CHAIR.

Rev. *Charles Clarke,* called in; and Examined.

Rev. *C. Clarke.*

6 May 1836.

13847. *Chairman.*] YOU have been acting as a Poor Law Commissioner?—I was an assistant agricultural commissioner on the Irish Poor Inquiry.

13848. Will you explain the nature of that commission?—In the course of last July there were four pairs sent out, consisting each of an English commissioner and an Irish commissioner; the English commissioner was one acquainted with agriculture. We had certain baronies pointed out to us in the different districts into which we went, and we had to take public evidence and to give our opinion concerning the state of agriculture in the baronies we visited; and the result of our observations has been published in the last report.

13849. To what part of Ireland did you direct your attention?—Connaught was allotted to me.

13850. Will you state in what condition you found the agriculture of Connaught?—There was no agriculture but of the rudest kind possible.

13851. Was there no corn raised?—There was corn raised, but it was raised in a very imperfect manner; there was nothing that you would call cultivation. The general principle was to take one crop of potatoes and then as many crops of oats as they could get out of the land, and then it was allowed to go to waste, without sowing any seed for the purpose of pasture; it remains so till it renews itself, and then goes through the same course again.

13852. When the land was left to go to waste, did indigenous pasture spring up?—In some part of it; upon fine land I was surprised to find what a beautiful short herbage had come in three years. I have been on fine land which had been three years out of cultivation, and it had covered itself with a most beautiful short herbage; there was no luxuriance, because the land had been so exhausted before it was turned out.

13853. Was that herbage similar to the downs in England?—The climates are so different that you cannot compare the rainy climate of Connaught to the dry downs of England.

13854. What is the nature of the soil generally; is it a soil capable of producing a great quantity of wheat and barley?—In some portions of the moister parts of Connaught, as the north part of Sligo and Leitrim, and some part of Mayo, very little wheat is grown; from the moisture of the climate it is very liable to be affected by brand or smut, and I have been in parishes where not a single stone of wheat or barley was grown in the course of the last year.

13855. Then you consider it a description of land unfavourable to the growth of wheat, in consequence of the nature of the climate?—The wet climate is against wheat, but a great deal of that land would grow good wheat except for the climate. I think the northern part of Sligo and Leitrim is not adapted to wheat, on account of the climate.

13856. Mr. *Evans.*] You are a practical farmer yourself?—I farm more than 300 acres in Suffolk.

13857. The *O'Conor Don.*] Will you name the parts you have visited?—The barony of Kilconnel, in the county of Galway; Murrisk, in the county of Mayo; Carberry, in the county of Sligo; Drumahair and Mohill, in the county of Leitrim.

13858. Did you find that there was any wheat grown in that part of the county of Mayo?—Yes, but not in any great quantity.

13859. Did you understand that there was more wheat grown in the previous year than in the last year?—Yes, there was in the county of Leitrim.

13860. *Chairman.*] What did they grow upon this land when it was not in pasture?—Oats and potatoes, and a very small quantity of flax.

13861. Did the land produce an abundant crop of oats?—It would if it was well tilled.

13862. Can you describe what was the process of the tillage?—The process of tillage is very frequently only the spade or the loy, which is not so good as the spade.

13863. The land was not ploughed with horses?—Very frequently not. I have been in baronies where they said there were not half-a-dozen ploughs in the whole barony.

13864. How often is the land cropped with oats and potatoes before it is laid down in pasture?—It varies very much; in some cases only two crops of oats are taken after the potatoes. Some persons stated to me that they had known 19 crops of oats in succession upon the same land.

13865. Without manure?—They never think of manuring for oats, except a little sea-weed; the manure generally goes on for the potatoes.

13866. What is the acreable produce?—It deteriorates every year, till at last they find it useless to sow it, the land being completely exhausted; while it will give any remuneration they scarcely think of turning it out to waste.

13867. Is the land divided into large farms or small?—Very small indeed in some places.

13868. What is the average extent of a farm of that kind?—In the county of Galway some of the farms are large, being applied to grazing. In the barony of Murrisk, in the county of Mayo, where the land is tilled, there are very small farms indeed; some not three or four acres each.

13869. Where the farms are large, what is the average size of the farms?—I can hardly state that from recollection. Interrogatories were put on all these subjects, and the answers will be found in the Report of the Irish Poor Inquiry.

13870. Mr. *Loch.*] Did it appear to you, from the districts of country you visited, that any very large additional supply of wheat could be sent from that country, so as to affect the English market?—Not from Connaught; but they could send a much larger supply of other corn than they do, if it was cultivated by men of knowledge and men of capital.

13871. The *O'Conor Don.*] Were you given to understand that the land could not produce wheat?—Only in certain tracts.

13872. In the interior of Mayo?—I think it would produce very good wheat there, and in parts of Galway.

13873. Mr. *Loch.*] You think a greater supply of oats might be sent?—Yes, a very large quantity of oats.

13874. And barley?—Yes, some portion of barley; but they cultivate only the worst sort of barley, the four-rowed.

13875. Mr. *Loch.*] Would not that climate be equally unfavourable to barley as to wheat; does not barley require a dry climate?—It does; but barley is not given to smut as wheat is, which renders it unsaleable.

13876. Mr. *Handley.*] Did you find that a large proportion of the oats grown in Connaught goes to the still?—I should think a much larger proportion was bought up and sent to England.

13877. Are you acquainted with the range of prices in Connaught, as compared with Dublin?—No, I am not.

13878. Do you think it is correct that the price of corn and oats in Connaught is frequently as high as the price in Dublin, owing to the demand for private stills?—I have no means of knowing; I have seen oats selling very cheap when I was in Connaught, but they were in a very damp state, not fit for shipping till they had been upon the kiln.

Rev. C. Clarke.

6 May 1836.

13879. Do not the Irish oats generally go upon the kiln before they come here?—I believe they do.

13880. Was the wheat harvest deficient in Ireland last year?—I saw some good pieces of wheat.

13881. At what period did you leave Connaught?—In the beginning of October.

13882. Was the harvest completed then?—Not altogether; the oats were not all in.

13883. Did you at all turn your attention to the reclamation of bogs and other waste land?—Yes; in every barony we made the inquiry whether there were large quantities of land to be reclaimed in that barony.

13884. What did you find generally?—Immense quantities fit for reclamation, many of them with very little labour.

13885. Have they much pasture land in the districts that you visited?—A great deal, and much mountain.

13886. And the pasture land generally good?—Yes.

13887. Is any portion of it drained?—Very little; drainage is greatly wanted in Ireland, every stream is stopped up.

13888. Are there any landed proprietors in Connaught who have turned their attention to the reclamation of waste lands?—Yes; Lord Palmerston, whose estate I was upon, in the barony of Carbery, in the county of Sligo, he does some every year; and Lord Clonbrock has begun in the county of Galway; he has got a railway laid down for the purpose of reclamation of bog.

13889. In what part of Ireland is that?—In the barony of Kilconnel, near Aughrim, four or five miles from Ballinasloe.

13890. Can you state what is the most approved process in order to bring bog land into cultivation?—That is described much better than I can give it now, in the Irish evidence; all the particulars and expenses of Lord Clonbrock's reclamation are in that evidence.

13891. Are you aware of the mode of draining that he has pursued?—First open drains are cut, then transverse covered drains made with sod; the land is then dug and harrowed, and then covered with lime gravel by a railroad, and allowed to remain in that way for some time.

13892. Are you acquainted with Mr. Featherstone, in the neighbourhood of Kinnegad?—No; I have heard of him.

13893. In your opinion, if an economical power were applied to the cultivation of those soils, such as steam, do you think that would tend to bring large tracts beneficially under cultivation?—Of course the least expensive mode you can employ would bring the largest tract into cultivation.

13894. Do you conceive that if capital and machinery were applied to those districts, they would probably yield a profitable return?—Yes, I believe they would.

13895. Have you heard of any intention of forming a company to do it upon the large scale?—I have not.

13896. You have not heard of any company formed at this moment in London with that view?—I have not. The proprietors are making great exertions to teach the people a better system of husbandry, even in those wild parts. Lord Clonbrock has got an agricultural grieve, a Scotch grieve: there are five, I think, in the county of Sligo; Mr. Wynne, Sir Alexander Creichton, Mr. O'Hara, Mr. Phibbs and Mr. Cooper. Lord Leitrim and Lord Clements also have a grieve in the county of Leitrim.

13897. The *O'Conor Don.*] Had you any opportunity of seeing the agricultural school set up in the county of Mayo?—I had.

13898. What is your opinion of it?—It is a failure; they had only four pupils.

13899. Was it under the superintendence of an English instructor?—The master is a Scotchman, Mr. M'Chlery. I have given the whole of his evidence in my report. I went and saw the school.

13900. Mr. *Handley.*] With reference to the climate being prejudicial to the growth of wheat, would it not be advantageous to the growth of flax?—I wish to qualify that; only the very wet parts are prejudicial to the growth of wheat. The northern parts of Sligo and Leitrim are the wettest parts in all Ireland. I saw very good crops of flax, but flax requires land better manured than they generally have it. They always grow it upon the best land on the farm, that

which

which is in the best condition, and they give it a little more tillage for that crop than for any other.

13901. The *O'Conor Don.*] It is generally the third crop taken off the land; potatoes first, and then oats, and then flax?—Yes.

13902. Mr. *Handley.*] From your observation, is the growth of flax upon the increase in Ireland?—Upon the decrease,

13903. Is that from the lowness of price?—The lowness of price.

13904. The *O'Conor Don.*] Did not you find that the last year and the year before there was a considerable increase in Connaught?—No; I could not judge of that; the people complained to me that it was not worth growing flax now.

13905. Mr. *Handley.*] From what period do you date the decrease in the growth of flax?—I could hardly tell that; the witnesses seemed to inform me that since so much cotton came into the trade the flax had decreased; the cotton had driven them out of the market.

13906. Are you aware that there was a protecting duty upon the flax imported into the country within a few years?—No, I was not.

13907. It was reduced from 4*s.* 6*d.* a cwt. to 1*d.*; do you believe that that would sufficiently account for its no longer being profitable to grow flax in the United Kingdom?—I think they told me that the hackled flax is worth about 8*d.* a pound.

13908. In those bogs that you saw under a system of reclamation was lime used?—Lime gravel.

13909. The *O'Conor Don.*] And lime itself?—Yes; Lord Palmerston used lime itself as well as lime gravel.

13910. Is that lime gravel found under the bog?—Near it: in Lord Clonbrock's estate it was just at one end of the bog.

13911. *Chairman.*] What is the cost of the transport of wheat from the counties of Galway and Leitrim to Liverpool?—I am not aware.

13912. Can you account for the low average of the price of wheat in Connaught?—It is wheat of ordinary quality, not good wheat.

13913. Mr. *Handley.*] Did you find any difficulty in ascertaining the boundaries of the different bog properties?—I believe there have been commissioners settling the boundaries in Ireland; what are called Boundary Commissioners.

13914. Mr. *Loch.*] In your opinion which would be the most advantageous way of expending capital in Ireland; to expend it in improving the cultivation of that land which is now under the plough, or to expend it in the reclamation of bogs?—If I had capital to lay out on an estate, I should expend it first in having a good system of agriculture established upon the land already in tillage.

13915. The *O'Conor Don.*] Are you aware of the amount of capital that it would require to bring those bogs into cultivation?—I have no notes of that; but my Lord Palmerston spends more in reclaiming bogs than the land is worth after it is done; I think his agent told me that he had spent as much as 25*l.* an acre.

13916. What rent does his Lordship receive for the acre afterwards?—I think there are some he has let for which he has not charged more than 12*s.* an acre. He has reclaimed extensively, but he only reclaims the worst bogs, some that are 30 feet deep.

13917. Have you ever understood that in Ireland there was a great quantity of bog that could be reclaimed at the expense of 8*l.* an acre, which would afterwards bring 15*s.* or 1*l.*?—Yes, I believe there is a great deal of bog that could be reclaimed at 8*l.* an acre.

13918. Mr. *Handley.*] Is it your opinion that the application of capital and labour, either to the improvement of the ill-cultivated lands or to the reclamation of bogs, would not be a preferable mode of relieving Ireland, rather than resorting to emigration?—I think those would be the best steps; but still in some places emigration is necessary, or migration.

13919. By migration, you mean from the more populous districts, to cultivate that land of which there is so large a portion uncultivated in Ireland?—Certainly. If I had the Irish Report I could refer to one part where it is impossible that any system of agriculture could support the people that now live there, either as agricultural labourers or in reclaiming land: the parish of Drumcliff, in the county of Sligo.

13920. The *O'Conor Don.*] Is there no land that is now in pasture that might be ploughed?—There is plenty of land in pasture, but I think there are 10,518 Irish acres in that parish, and I think the number of souls in the parish

Rev. C. Clarke.

6 May 1836.

is 14,000. Now I know of no English system of farming that could keep that quantity employed.

13921. Mr. *Handley.*] When you speak of migration as compared with emigration, of course you are taking into consideration the population in every part of the country that is still either unpeopled or uncultivated?—Yes.

13922. What is the general state of the population in the vicinity of the larger tracts of unreclaimed bog-lands?—I could hardly answer that question.

13923. In the bogs which have been reclaimed, has the effect been to attract a large portion of population to them?—It would do so; but Lord Clonbrock, in his reclamation, has been increasing his farms by the addition of portions of the reclaimed bog.

13924. But those additions have required additional hands to cultivate them—Yes; but he still has increased the size of the farms.

13925. Mr. *Cayley.*] Taking the whole of the present cultivated soil of Ireland, do you think, if that soil were cultivated according to the most improved system of husbandry, that there is sufficient population for the cultivation of it?—I cannot speak to that; I know only one portion, the province of Connaught.

13926. Mr. *Handley.*] Although Lord Clonbrock increased the size of his farms, and therefore did not multiply the number of farmers, he still gave an additional demand for labour?—Certainly he did.

13927. And those farmers would get supplied from the more populous districts, provided they had not sufficient hands?—Yes.

13928. Mr. *Cayley.*] Have you ever read the evidence given in 1823 before the House of Commons?—No.

13929. Do you know Mr. Alexander Glendenning?—Yes.

13930. Can you speak as to the increase of the con-acre system in Connaught?—No.

13931. Had you ever been in Ireland before last year, when you went as an agricultural commissioner?—No.

13932. Therefore you cannot speak as to their comparative condition now and at former times?—I cannot; I believe it was rather desired, as our agricultural observations were wanted, that we should be previously unacquainted with Ireland.

13933. Mr. *Evans.*] Did you hear many complaints in the country?—They were in a very bad state when I was at Westport, in the barony of Murrisk.

13934. Did they make any comparative observations with respect to their state then and three years before?—They had experienced distress before; and they were in a very distressed state then in the vicinity of Westport.

13935. Mr. *Young.*] Was there more distress in the towns or in the country?—I think in the country, because there is less employment in the country than in the towns.

13936. The *O'Conor Don.*] To what do you attribute that distress?—To a deficiency in the crop of potatoes. The distress is increased when the old crop of potatoes becomes unfit for food before the new crop of potatoes comes in; if that period happens to be prolonged, the distress is prolonged.

13937. Mr. *Evans.*] Do they use oatmeal in the intermediate time?—When they can afford it; they usually obtain it upon credit, and pay a high price for it.

13938. Mr. *Young.*] Can you state whether the old potato becomes unfit for food before the new one comes in every year?—I should think it did; at least that is the evidence we received.

13939. The *O'Conor Don.*] Did you find that the distress was generally from a smaller quantity of potatoes being produced in the previous year, rather than that the potatoes had become bad?—The distress arose, in the greater degree, from the small crop of the previous year; but both causes would operate.

13940. Mr. *Young.*] Then you suppose that in a good year the potatoes will not keep the whole year?—I think there is great difficulty in keeping them good for the whole year.

13941. The *O'Conor Don.*] Then every year must they not be reduced to the same state of distress?—They must every year experience a season of difficulty; but the longer the period is, the greater will be the distress.

13942. *Chairman.*] Is full information contained upon all those subjects in the report?—Yes; and I should beg leave to refer the Committee to the report upon this subject.

Mr. *William Menzies*, called in; and Examined.

13943. WHERE do you reside?—At Tully Allan, near Alloa.

13944. Are you the factor of some large estates in Scotland?—Factor for Lord Viscount Keith's trustees' estates, and for Lady Baroness Keith's, in Kinross-shire, Perthshire and Kincardineshire.

13945. What is the extent of that district with which you are particularly acquainted?—I am acquainted from Tully Allan upwards to Stonehaven; about the extent of 100 miles I travel; but those estates are situated not all over that extent, but in those different counties, to the extent of 18,000 Scotch acres.

13946. Are the tenantry of those estates in a good condition at present?—They are in very good condition; they are thriving and improving their lands.

13947. Are they tenants on lease, or tenants at will?—They are tenants on lease.

13948. What is the length of the leases?—Fifteen and nineteen years.

13949. Are they upon a money rent or upon a corn rent?—They are principally upon a money rent, convertible into corn, and payable by the fiar's prices of the county; generally half is paid in money, and half of it in that way.

13950. Has there been any reduction of rent lately?—Nothing but what they have had from the reduction of prices.

13951. When was that conversion made from a money rent to a corn rent?—It took place soon after the war, and it has been continued so ever since.

13952. In your opinion, have the tenants who have been renting their farms upon that system suffered at all from the diminished price of corn?—No, I consider that they have not: from the various improvements that have taken place, and draining their lands, and lately from the introduction of bone dust to grow turnips, and from various other improvements in machinery and implements to cheapen labour, and so enable them to produce corn at a cheap rate, that have taken place, they have been able to sustain themselves and to pay their rent.

13953. Does the district of which you have been speaking contain every description of soil?—It does; from the alluvial clays and the strong clay, to the light sandy loam and peat soil.

13954. In the alluvial clay land is wheat the principal produce of the soil?—The principal produce is wheat; beans, barley and oats are grown.

13955. Also potatoes?—Potatoes; since the wedge-draining or furrow-draining has been introduced they have been able to grow crops of potatoes, which is as profitable a crop as any they have, now that they have found their way to the London market.

13956. Have you recommended the laying down land in permanent pasture?—I have.

13957. And suggested the best mode of doing it?—Yes.

13958. Has much land been laid down in consequence of your recommendation?—In different places a good many have followed the same system that we have done, which is principally by sowing the natural grasses; instead of the two sorts that they used to sow before, they sow now a mixture of from five to 15 sorts; in some cases I have sown 20 sorts.

13959. Those are the grasses which are indigenous to the soil?—Yes.

13960. Do you find that those will stand any number of years?—They stand for a great number of years; as long as we have had experience of them; being indigenous they ought not to fail, but to keep possession.

13961. Is land that is so laid down in pasture let at a high rate?—It lets at a higher rent than we could let it for ploughing.

13962. That of course is let at a money rent?—Yes.

13963. Mr. *Loch.*] What sort of rent?—From 3*l.* 10*s.* to 5*l.* a Scotch acre.

13964. Has there been a portion of that permanent pasture attached to the arable farms?—No, it is principally what has been in the proprietors' hands; what we have let in that way has been let as grass parks.

13965. Mr. *Evans.*] Let for 19 years?—No, let annually.

13966. Mr. *Loch.*] The grass-walks are fields that are let from year to year by public auction?—They are.

13967. And taken by the tenants in the neighbourhood?—Yes; and by graziers and butchers.

13968. Therefore that makes up a proportion of grass, which otherwise the farm would be without?—Yes, when a farmer takes it.

Mr. W. Menzies.

6 May 1836.

13969. *Chairman.*] Is not a portion of the farm devoted to the cultivation of clover?—No; the farmer has generally the clover for cutting for hay or soiling.

13970. Mr. *Loch.*] But it comes into the rotation?—Yes; it is part of the rotation of some lands.

13971. There is a portion of the estate under your management, near Alloa, which is flat carse land?—Yes.

13972. What is the nature of the soil?—An alluvial clay.

13973. Has any of it been reclaimed from the sea?—Yes, a large portion has been taken in from the sea at one time.

13974. To what extent?—The last that was taken in to the extent of 135 English acres; and there is at present in progress a mound or ridge of stone and mud, which, when finished, will recover from the sea or river 250 statute acres; the tide at high water is 12 feet deep on it.

13975. Is that now in a productive state?—Very productive.

13976. What rent does it give per acre?—At present it averages 3*l.* 10*s.*; but the rent is a converted grain one; 3*l.* 10*s.* is the average.

13977. What was it worth before it was taken in?—It was worth nothing at all: 9 *l.* were paid for the salt grass that grew upon eight or nine acres of it.

13978. How long is it since it was taken in?—Twelve or fourteen years.

13979. And it now pays at the rate of 3*l.* 10*s.*?—Yes, on an average.

13980. What is the rotation of crops followed upon that farm?—Six-shift rotation.

13981. Will you describe it?—First potatoes and turnip, generally potatoes; next wheat, then beans, then barley, then grass for one year, and then oats.

13982. Is not that rather a severe system of cropping?—No; it gets manure to the beans, and that restores it again after the wheat; being lately recovered from the river it has as yet required very little manure.

13983. You do not attempt that except upon that very rich alluvial soil?—Yes, upon that alluvial soil and others of the same description.

13984. What is the produce of wheat per acre?—About 32 bushels the imperial acre, or 40 bushels the Scotch acre; oats 48, barley 42, and potatoes from three to five tons an acre.

13985. What is the quality of the barley?—It is very good.

13986. What is the wheat?—From 53 lbs. to 57 lbs. a bushel.

13987. Mr. *Handley.*] Good malting barley?—Very good malting barley.

13988. Mr. *Loch.*] Are the improvements in the county, in the districts you are acquainted with, going on, or have they been checked?—They are going on progressively and rapidly; draining and improving waste land; draining and deep-ploughing land already in cultivation.

13989. Are there any portions of the estate upon which the leases have expired and which have been let in again?—Yes.

13990. Do you get the same, or a lower rent, or a better rent?—We get a better rent, but that was in consequence of the system of improvement which had been taking place in the course of the lease, which caused the rent to rise.

13991. What was the condition of the land upon which the improvements were made, at the commencement of the lease which has just expired?—They were principally lighter soils, with strong sub-soils.

13992. Upon letting them anew you got better rents than the old rents?—Yes; but that was in consequence of the improvements that had been made in the course of the lease.

13993. By whom were those improvements made?—Partly by the landlord and partly by the tenant.

13994. What was the nature of the improvements?—Generally draining and inclosing.

13995. What proportion of those improvements may have been borne by the landlord, and what by the tenant?—The landlord paid for the opening of the drains, and the tenants paid the filling of them up; the landlord paid the building of the fences, and the tenants performed the carriages.

13996. Then there has been a considerable quantity of land that was nearly unproductive at the beginning of the lease which is now in a state of cultivation, and the rents have risen?—Yes.

13997. In that strong sub-soil farm did you try to stir up the sub-soil?—It has not been done upon that farm, but upon some others in the neighbourhood the soil has been stirred.

13998. By Mr. Smith of Denston's plough?—Yes, or the same sort of plough.

13999. With what effect has that been done?—In a farm in Kinross-shire the cost of the sub-soil ploughing was 9*l.* an acre, and the whole expense was 25*l.* for one year, and 34*l.* an acre altogether for two years, and the two crops were 37*l.*, which left a profit of 3*l.* upon the whole, after paying all the expenses.

14000. Was that including rent?—Including rent.

14001. What made the expense of the sub-soil ploughing so great?—That included everything; furrow-draining and every other expense whatever.

14002. Have you got the particulars of those expenses?—Yes.

14003. Will you be so good as to read it?—Thirty roods of drains per Scotch acre, at 2*s.* per rood, 3*l.*; 90 square yards of broken stones, at 6*d.* per square yard, 2*l.* 5*s.*; account of carting stones, including filling and turfing, 2*l.* 10*s.*; expenses connected with sub-soil ploughing, 1*l.* 5*s.*; amount for draining and trenching, 9*l.*

14004. The total expense of that improvement, at the end of the second year, was 34*l.*, and the amount of the produce was 37*l.*, leaving 3*l.* after paying rent and all other expenses?—Yes; the expense was paid in two years, and 3*l.* over for interest.

14005. Do you suppose that that result was chiefly owing to that system of improvement?—Entirely; the land we considered worth 25*s.* an acre before the improvement began, and after it was finished it was considered worth 3*l.* an acre.

14006. Have you seen that system of improvement pursued upon any other farm?—No, except lately I have seen it in Stirlingshire, to the westward of Stirlingshire.

14007. Near Mr. Smith's own place?—Yes; there it was merely a trial and competition.

14008. Sir *James Graham.*] Will you describe the mode of ploughing adopted by Mr. Smith?—The general way is, a plough with a pair of horses passes first and lays over the surface soil, and that is followed by the sub-soil plough, which turns up the sub-soil to the depth of 16 inches, including what was turned over by the two-horse plough.

14009. By how many horses is that drawn?—Four horses, but sometimes three will do the work.

14010. There is no mould board to the second plough?—No.

14011. But it is a coulter, which moves the sub-soil without throwing it up?—Yes.

14012. To what depth does the first plough without a mould board go?—About six or eight inches.

14013. And the second plough with a coulter, without a mould board?—About 10 inches.

14014. Making altogether how much?—About from 16 to 18 inches generally.

14015. What quantity will four horses plough in a day with Mr. Smith's plough?—About half to a whole Scotch acre.

14016. That can only be used in land which has not been tile or stone-drained previously?—Yes; it can be used, but it has no good effect without the draining.

14017. Is there not great danger of its going down to the tile drains, in land which has been drained before this operation?—Yes, if the drains have not been sufficiently deep so as to be entirely out of the reach of the plough.

14018. All clay land which has been drained by drains across the ridges is exposed to danger from this depth of ploughing?—Yes, if the drains have not been deep enough.

14019. It is peculiarly applicable to clay land which has not been tile-drained but is about to be tile-drained?—Yes, it is, and to all retentive bottomed land.

14020. Mr. *Handley.*] When you speak of clay land, is the land which is ploughed by four horses a very tenacious sub-soil?—Yes; this plough will penetrate any kind of strong sub-soil.

14021. Sir *James Graham.*] Is not the plough of a very peculiar construction?—Yes, Mr. Smith's plough is of a peculiar construction.

14022. Mr. *Handley.*] Have you found in your experience that the sub-soil of a tenacious clay, when once broken up by this sub-soil plough, unites again?—No; I should think, if it is deep ploughed afterwards and mixed with the surface soil, which I think should always be the case, then of course it could not adhere again; but we have not had sufficient experience to prove this.

14023. Sir *James Graham.*] With a mould-board plough?—Yes.

Mr. *W. Menzies.*

6 May 1836.

14024. Mr. *Handley.*] Then in that case you bring up as much sub-soil as you have surface soil?—Yes, part sub-soil; but I think it is a good not an evil, if it is mixed with the surface soil at the time the manure is given to the fallow or green crop.

14025. But there are some clays that have been stirred by the sub-soil plough beneath the furrow; would they unite again?—If they were a strong tenacious clay I think they might; the trenching plough should be applied, which would prevent this.

14026. Have you found that the sole of the sub-soil plough renders the bottom of the furrow more impervious to water?—I should think it might on some clays, but we have not had any experience of such.

14027. Sir *James Graham.*] At what depth do you lay the drains after this operation of ploughing in with Mr. Smith's plough?—The drains should be laid at least 18 inches deep and under the 16 inches turned over by the plough, and should be from one to two inches clear of it, so as there might be no chance of the sole of the plough touching the top of the drain.

14028. Then you lay the drain lower than you disturb with the sub-soil plough?—Yes.

14029. How do you break the crust which intervenes between the bottom of the ploughing and the top of the drain; is there not a hard substance still unbroken?—No; if the sub-soil plough goes along it, it breaks it to the required depth, but the drain must come up fully to the height of the sub-soil plough; the stones or fillings not to that height, a covering of turf or heath or other substance intervening.

14030. You so manage it that the top of the drain is always at the bottom of the sub-soil broken by the plough?—The stone must not come where the plough reaches.

14031. How do you fill in the drains?—Either with tiles or stones in part, or with stones entirely; if it is a soil in which plenty of small stones are to be found or to be got near, it is the cheapest and best fillings; in the alluvial lands stones are difficult to be got, and tiles are generally used.

14032. How do you lay the drains; across the ridges or in the furrows?—In the furrows generally,

14033. Have you been at Denston?—Yes.

14034. How has Mr. Smith done it?—He runs his drains parallel with each other, and pays no regard to furrows.

14035. And not across?—Some of his drains are probably made across, should it happen to be necessary for any purpose.

14036. From your experience, is it your opinion that it is better to lay them in the furrows or across?—I think it is better upon the steep banks, where the water can run down, to lay them in the furrows, should some circumstance not render it advisable to adopt another mode.

14037. What depth do you make the ridges?—Eighteen feet.

14038. Twice gathered?—Certainly, in lands not drained; though drained lands do not require ridges at all. Mr. Smith has no ridges; all the land I have laid down to grass is laid down without ridges or furrows.

14039. Mr. *Evans.*] You have stated that a large tract of land was reclaimed from the sea; did the sea flow over it when the tide rose?—Yes, always when the tide was flowing it was covered eight feet deep.

14040. What kind of embankment did you use to exclude the sea?—Mud embankment principally, with a turf facing; stones are better.

14041. Can you state how high the sea flowed over the greater part of it?—At the height of spring-tides eight feet.

14042. After having made the banking, and reclaimed the soil, were you able to crop it the first year, or was it necessary to let it remain to rest from the effect of the salt?—It remained nearly five years; but by growing grasses upon it, and from the salt grass that comes naturally, it swarded itself in grass, and then it was fit to be broken up for oats, and produced 14 quarters per Scotch acre.

14043. Mr. *Loch.*] In that district of country with which you are acquainted, extending from near Alloa to Aberdeen, during the experience that you have had the last 20 years, has there been a great improvement generally?—I think a very great improvement; much land has been reclaimed and improved, and the general culture is greatly improved.

251

Mr. *W. Menzies.*

6 May 1836.

14044. Has there been a considerable quantity of land brought into cultivation?—Yes, a great deal in some parts.

14045. Is there a much larger quantity of land now producing wheat than when you first knew the district?—I think upon the strong soils there is more, but upon the lighter soils I think there is less. The districts infested with the fly four years ago they gave up; they have taken to it again. There is less wheat sown for 1836 than formerly.

14046. Sir *James Graham.*] Do you export wheat from that district now?—If prices rise; if not, they will take to barley.

14047. Should you say that the produce of the whole district is now upon the increase, or stationary?—It is on the increase; in consequence of the thorough draining, they are getting greater crops.

14048–9. Is the process of clearing mosses still going on in the Strath of Stirling?—Yes, it goes on still.

14050. Is Mr. Home Drummond still continuing that process?—Yes, I believe so, as far as I know.

14051. What quantity of land annually is cleared by that process?—I am not competent to say the quantity, but there was a considerable quantity cleared annually.

14052. In the last 30 years has not a large quantity of fine wheat land been almost created by the clearing of the moss from the surface?—Yes.

14053. To what extent in the Strath of Stirling?—I can hardly say the extent; it is beyond the reach of my travelling.

14054. But it is steadily progressive?—It is so, to the best of my information.

14055. And the moss, when removed, opens a clay of the finest quality, which bears the finest wheat?—Yes, I am informed it is of the best quality.

14056. And that is still going on?—Yes.

14057. And adding greatly to the produce of the district?—It adds to the produce of the district, but I do not know if very greatly.

14058. What is the condition of the farmers in your district?—They are in good circumstances.

14059. Are they dissatisfied with their present condition?—They are dissatisfied with the low prices, principally of wheat, oats and barley; potatoes has been good, also prices of cattle; but from being placed principally upon a corn rent, they generally pay their rents, and continue to live and thrive.

14060. Except the cases where rents are not adjusted to the prices, is there any dissatisfaction with the state of affairs in your neighbourhood?—Yes; but there are very few of that description; I may say none.

14061. The rents are adjusted?—The rents are adjusted to the times long ago.

14062. Where the rents are adjusted to the times, do the farmers think the Legislature can do anything to assist them?—The general belief in those counties is, so far as my information goes, that the Legislature can do little or nothing for them.

14063. And they are contented with their position, where the rents are adjusted to the prices?—Generally contented.

14064. Are the labouring population contented?—Yes, I think the labouring population at present are contented, and in full employment at good wages.

14065. Do you ever recollect them in more comfortable circumstances;—No; I think they are in as comfortable circumstances as I ever recollect them to have been; good wages, and price of provisions low.

14066. Do not their wages bear a better relative proportion to the prices than they have generally done?—Yes; the prices of wages are rising very rapidly of late.

14067. Do you think the labouring population of Scotland would like to see war prices, if they obtained war wages?—No, I do not think they would be as well off.

14068. Do you think the farmers would rather pay war rents and have war prices, or pay their present adjusted rent with the present prices?—I think the farmers would rather have war prices.

14069. And war rents?—And war rents. It is however only since the general peace and low prices that the landlords and tenants took to improve.

14070. What is your opinion upon this subject; do you think that was an equally sound state of affairs?—No, not for all parties.

Mr. *W. Menzies.*

6 May 1836.

14071. Then you are of opinion that the interest of the farmers, properly considered, is, that they should be upon the present footing?—I think so, as to rents being paid according to the price of grain.

14072. Mr. *Handley.*] Would you object to having the price of produce a little higher?—Certainly not.

14073. What do you conceive would be a remunerating price for wheat, according to the present state of agriculture in Scotland, as it respects both landlord and tenant?—Perhaps, on consideration, I would say 60*s.* to 64*s.* for wheat.

14074. You think 60*s.* would be a remunerating price, enabling the tenant to pay a fair rent to the landlord?—The tenants being upon corn rents at present, it does not signify so very much to them.

14075. But with reference to the proprietor also, do you think he is getting rents according to the present price of grain that are a fair return for his investment in land?—I could not answer that question at present.

14076. *Chairman.*] Would not that depend upon the price he originally gave for the land?—Yes.

14077. Mr. *Handley.*] What are your outgoings upon a farm, in the shape of parochial taxes?—We have hardly any parochial taxes.

14078. You have no poor-rates?—No, with the exception of a very few parishes, and these rates are generally very low.

14079. And the highway and other charges are comparatively small?—Yes.

14080. What are the labourer's wages?—Nine shillings a week at present; 9*s.* to 10*s.*

14081. Paid generally in money, or in produce?—In money.

14082. What is the state of the cattle markets in Scotland at present?—They are very good.

14083. Has not a very large proportion of the stock of Scotland been shipped to the southern markets this year, by steam?—Yes, a large proportion.

14084. And that probably is upon the increase?—It is; and that has been the cause of the high prices.

14085. Do you conceive that that will be the case in ordinary years, or only when there is a scarcity in England?—I think if there was a plenty in England, of course there would not be a demand from Scotland to the same extent; but the Scotch beef and mutton is preferable to that of the English breeds, therefore will always command a market in London.

14086. Has not the usual trade been to drive your beasts to the southern parts of England or to the midland counties, to be fed and fattened for the London market?—Yes, lean cattle.

14087. Will that be in a great measure superseded by the introduction of steam communication, and your fatting them at home?—It will, if steam increases.

14088. Sir *James Graham.*] Will not that enable you to raise a greater quantity of manure for your land?—Yes, and so continue to improve it.

14089. Will not that operate upon the produce of your land, and increase it?—Yes, most certainly.

14090. Mr. *Handley.*] You have been asked whether the farmers in Scotland think that Parliament can do anything for them; you have said not. Do you think they would like Parliament to deprive them of the circulation of their one-pound notes?—They would not like that.

14091. Sir *James Graham.*] Can you imagine that prices can permanently be maintained in Scotland much above the level of England, considering the free interchange of commodities between the two countries?—No, there is no cause that it should be so.

14092. Therefore you are not of opinion that the one-pound notes maintain the level of prices in Scotland above the level in England?—It is a better circulating medium, and the Scotch are very fond of their notes.

14093. But as regards the comparative prices, it can have no great effect while there is a constant interchange of commodities between Scotland and England?—No, I do not see it can have that effect.

14094. Mr. *Handley.*] Do you think the farmers would get the same accommodation from the bankers in Scotland, if they had not the one-pound notes?—No; the circulating of the one-pound notes is of consequence, yet I should think not so much so as to induce bankers to run any risk in discounting.

14095. Is not that accommodation of great service to the producers?—Yes, where

Mr. *W. Menzies.*

6 May 1836.

where they require it; but, excepting dealers in cattle, the farmers are not so much in want of that as other classes.

14096. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] One of the witnesses before this Committee has dated the rise in the agriculture of Scotland from the first establishment of the national banking of Scotland; do you concur in that opinion?—Yes, I think he is correct; it was before my time, but I have heard much of it.

14097. Were you rightly understood to say that the farmers are dissatisfied with the present low prices?—They are dissatisfied with the low prices, for wheat particularly; they have no reason to be dissatisfied with anything else.

14098. Mr. *Loch.*] What do you mean by being dissatisfied?—They would like higher prices, but they are not dissatisfied with the low ones in the present situation in which they are with their rents, being paid according to their prices.

14099. Mr. *Clive.*] If all their rents were now adjusted according to the present prices, you think a great deal of the dissatisfaction would be removed?—Yes; those who are paying rents above the present prices have reason to be dissatisfied.

14100. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] Are their present rents so fixed as to bear a price of wheat not exceeding 60 *s.* a quarter?—Yes; their rents rise and fall so much according to the price that it does not make the same difference to them, at least all who are so situated.

14101. *Chairman.*] The corn rents rise and fall according to the price of grain?—Yes.

14102. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] What is the average produce upon fair mixed land, land of a light mixed soil?—About 23 bushels of wheat per imperial acre; oats and barley are much greater return.

14103. Do you think that the growth of wheat would be continued generally upon land of that character, supposing the price of wheat henceforth not to range beyond 50 *s.* a quarter?—No; they would take barley in place of it.

14104. Do you think, speaking of Scotland generally, wheat would be grown generally at the price of 50 *s.* a quarter, except upon the very fine soils?—No, upon the wheat soils only.

14105. When you speak of wheat soils, do you confine that to land of superior quality?—Yes.

14016. Sir *James Graham.*] Is not red wheat now grown in Scotland, where oats, 20 years ago, were grown with difficulty?—Yes, if the land is well prepared.

14107. And at not much greater cost if it has been made dry?—That sort of land has generally been well dried.

14108. The first cost of draining being incurred, the cost of growing red wheat is not greater than the cost of growing oats used to be?—No; if potatoes is taken instead of the fallow.

14109. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] Do you think the proprietors of estates in Scotland would have made such large investments of capital in the improvement of their land, if they had contemplated so great a reduction of price as to the price of 50 *s.* a quarter?—I do not know that they would.

14110. Do you think they would continue to go on investing capital in the same way should they have reason to think that such would be the state of things hereafter?—I do not see any great reason to expect the prices to be much higher than what they are now.

Mr. *William Cox*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *William Cox.*

14111. *Chairman.*] WHERE do you reside?—At Scotsgrove, in Buckinghamshire.

14112. Are you a farmer?—Yes; and appraiser of farming-stock and a land-valuer.

14113. What is the extent of your farm?—I farm 1,800 acres.

14114. What is the quality of the soil?—There are different soils; I have some strong stiff clay, some bad clay, and useful turnip land.

14115. Do they all lie contiguous?—No; 10 or 12 miles apart.

14116. Is the farm which you have which is a stiff clay soil a farm by itself?—Yes.

14117. For the last three years have you been farming that land to a profit?—Decidedly not to a profit.

Mr. *William Cox.*

6 May 1836.

14118. Has that been owing principally to the low price of wheat?—To the low price of produce altogether; we consider that the standard of prices is too low; we are making a good price of beans now, from an accidental circumstance, the failure of the turnip crop.

14119. What is the extent of the stiff-clay farm?—I have but 400 acres of arable land; I have 1,400 acres of grass land, and the wheat on the land is about a third of that.

14120. What is the rotation of crops upon that farm?—My rotation is different from the custom of the country. The custom of the country is, for that description of land, first, fallow, then wheat, then beans, and then oats; the four-course system. I have adopted a different system. I take a green crop upon the fallows, feed off with sheep, and I have two crops of corn.

14121. By the "green crop," do you mean tares or turnips?—Tares; and we introduce clover once in nine years. Mine is a three-course system; we have first fallow, with a green crop, after that wheat, and after that beans, and then fallow again, with a green crop; and we consider that it brings wheat too near together to come every third year, and consequently we introduce barley occasionally.

14122. When you state that the price of all agricultural produce is too low, do you refer to the price of wheat?—Yes; I consider that the present standard of price is, wheat at 6*s.* a bushel, beans 4*s.* a bushel, barley 3*s.* 6*d.*, and oats 2*s.* 9*d.* Now we do not mean to say that supply and demand have nothing to do with the prices; we know that they have to do with the prices; but we consider these prices to be the standard at the present time.

14123. Do you consider those to be the average prices the last two or three years?—I mean the standard of prices, according to the circulating medium.

14124. Do you mean to say that three or four years ago the standard of wheat was not higher than that?—I mean to say that before 1828 the standard of wheat was much higher.

14125. But the circulating medium was the same then as it is now?—Not since we have lost the 1*l.* and 2*l.* notes.

14126. Take the years 1828, 1829 and 1830?—The standard of wheat at that time was 2*s.* a bushel higher than at present.

14127. What is the rent of the clay land that you occupy?—The rent and tithes are about 30*s.* an acre.

14128. Has there been any abatement in your rent lately?—Not very considerable; we consider that about the highest rent that is given in our neighbourhood for that description of land. I occupy grass land with it, consequently my rent and tithe altogether is more.

14129. Is not that a very high rent for bad clay land?—I speak now of the best quality of clay land. I have very middling clay land, and I have very good clay land; that is, wheat and bean land.

14130. Thirty shillings an acre is what you consider the rent for the wheat and bean land of the best quality?—Yes, the rent and tithe for the best quality.

14131. What is the acreable produce of that land?—It averages about 30 bushels of wheat, and four and a half quarters of beans, and five quarters of oats.

14132. Is there a great deal of land of that quality in your neighbourhood?—Yes.

14133. Are the farmers doing well or ill that occupy land of that description?—A great part have failed; and more than half the rest, if they were to reckon, would be insolvent.

14134. How long is it since any of them have failed?—They have constantly failed the last five or six years.

14135. Have they ceased to occupy their farms?—Some of them have.

14136. Have new tenants been found for those farms?—For some of them there have, and some of them are in the landlords' hands; a nobleman has two on hand near Aylesbury.

14137. To what extent are those farms?—I do not know the extent; one may be to the extent of 300 acres; and we have another farm at Risborough, which has not been occupied at all for four years.

14138. Were those farms exhausted by the tenants before they left them?—One of those alluded to had as good a tenant upon it as any in the country.

14139. Have those farms been offered to be let at a reduced rent?—I cannot say; but I know the landlord would not occupy that description of land, if he could get good tenants.

14140. Mr. *Loch.*] Are those farms in a good state of cultivation?—One was in the hands of a very excellent farmer.

14141. In what condition did he leave it?—I think it was left in good condition.

14142. Has there been any draining or other improvement made in the farm?—The proprietor has drained it since he had it on hand.

14143. Was the other farm in good condition?—I think it was.

14144. Mr. *Clive.*] Were the buildings in good repair?—Yes, they were new.

14145. Adapted for the convenience of the farm in all respects?—Yes.

14146. Mr. *Loch.*] Then why did the tenants go?—They went because they had lost a good deal of money.

14147. *Chairman.*] If the rent of those farms had been reduced after the war to a proper level, do you think those farmers would have left those farms?—There is one of them that I would not have without rent at all.

14148. Sir *Robert Price.*] What was the rent?—I suppose 15*s.* an acre.

14149. *Chairman.*] Why would you not have it without rent?—Because I should lose money.

14150. Is it an expensive farm to cultivate?—It is an expensive farm.

14151. Are the poor-rates heavy upon that farm?—The poor-rates are heavy; it is not a good parish.

14152. How much an acre?—I suppose this is rated at about 15*s.* an acre, and about 6*s.* in the pound.

14153. Six shillings in the pound upon a three-fourths' valuation?—I do not think it was a three-fourths' valuation; they have had a new rate since, because it was too high, and some of the occupiers were dissatisfied.

14154. What is the acreable produce of that farm?—If it was farmed remarkably well, it might produce 20 bushels of wheat an acre.

14155. Would not it answer to drain that land?—It has been drained.

14156. And yet it will not produce more?—No.

14157. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] Do you think it has been properly drained?—It has been drained so as to carry off the water.

14158. Mr. *Loch.*] Is it nearly all under the plough?—Yes, a great part of it.

14159. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] Is the soil of a particularly retentive quality?—Yes; but we have thousands of acres as bad as that.

14160. *Chairman.*] How was it drained?—With wedges.

14161. How far are the drains apart?—About nine yards apart.

14162. Mr. *Loch.*] Do they go across the land?—No, it was done for surface water; it is not springy land.

14163. Was it in the direction of the ridges, or across the furrows?—Up the furrows.

14164. *Chairman.*] How deep from the surface?—Eighteen inches to twenty-four inches.

14165. Mr. *Loch.*] Were the furrows very wet?—Very wet before.

14166. Mr. *Handley.*] Do you consider the drains out of the way of the tread of the horses?—They would not be out of the way of the tread of the horses, if it was not done well.

14167. How many horses do you plough with?—Upon that land, four the first ploughing, and three afterwards.

14168. Mr. *Loch.*] How deep do they plough?—As deep as the staple will allow them; I suppose the staple is not more than three or four inches.

14169. Do they require four horses to plough three inches deep?—It is a very tough sort of land.

14170. *Chairman.*] How often do they grow wheat upon that land?—They have been in the habit of having it every third year.

14171. Is not that a most ruinous system, upon so shallow a soil?—It is a very bad system.

14172. Mr. *Clive.*] It never can pay its expenses?—Never.

14173. *Chairman.*] If the land were cropped differently, and had wheat once in six years instead of once in three, and a great portion of it was in clover, would not that be better?—It is not adapted for clover.

14174. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] Is this wheat and bean land?—It is wheat and oat land, of the worst sort. If I might be allowed to volunteer evidence to the Committee, I have made a statement upon two sorts of land in our neighbourhood, the cost of cultivation, and the produce of it.

[*The Witness delivered in the following Paper:*]

Statement of cultivating One Acre of best stiff Clay (or Wheat and Bean) Land, upon the Four-course system.

Wheat Crop:	£.	s.	d.
Four ploughs, 12 *s.* 6 *d.* each	2	10	–
Harrowing and picking thistles	–	3	–
Sheep-folding or top-dressing	1	10	–
Two and a half bushels of seed, at 5 *s.*	–	12	6
Preparing ditto, and sowing	–	1	–
Weeding	–	2	6
Harvesting	–	17	–
Thrashing and carting to market	–	15	–
Trenching and levelling	–	3	–
Two years' rent, tithe and rates	3	10	–
Two years' interest upon 8 *l.* capital employed	–	16	–
£.	11	–	–

Bean Crop:	£.	s.	d.
One plough	–	14	–
Preparing, felling, leading and spreading 12 loads of manure	1	4	–
Four bushels of seed, 4 *s.*	–	16	–
Setting ditto, 1 *s.* 9 *d.*	–	7	–
Hoeing ditto, three times, at 4 *s.* each time	–	12	–
Harvesting	–	15	–
Thrashing and market expenses	–	10	–
One year's rent, tithe and rates	1	15	–
Simple interest upon 8 *l.* capital	–	8	–
£.	7	1	–

Expense of cultivating One Acre for Oats, upon the best Clay Land:	£.	s.	d.
Two ploughings	1	5	–
Five bushels of seed, 2 *s.* 9 *d.*	–	13	9
Harrowing	–	3	–
Sowing and weeding	–	3	–
Harvesting	–	10	–
Thrashing and market	–	10	–
One year's rent, tithe and rates	1	15	–
Simple interest upon 8 *l.* employed	–	8	–
Cultivation for oats	5	7	9
Ditto for wheat	11	–	–
Ditto for beans	7	1	–
Total amount of expenses	23	8	9
Total amount of produce	21	14	–
Loss to cultivator £.	1	14	9

Produce of Three Crops in Four Years, upon One Acre of the best Clay Land:	£.	s.	d.
Thirty bushels of wheat, at 5 *s.* per bushel	7	10	–
Thirty-six bushels of beans, at 4 *s.* per bushel	7	4	–
Forty bushels of oats, at 2 *s.* 9 *d.* per bushel	5	10	–
Stover of straw upon each crop, 10 *s.*	1	10	–
£.	21	14	–

The above is the usual method in many parishes of cultivating the best description of clay land; but the three-course system, with a green crop upon the fallows to be fed off, is a more excellent way. I will, therefore, beg permission to state the expense of cultivating one acre of the same land under the three-course system, and the probable returns; viz.

Wheat Crop:	£.	s.	d.
Four ploughings, at 12 *s.* 6 *d.*	2	10	–
Three bushels of vetches, 6 *s.*	–	18	–
Harrowing and picking	–	3	–
Two and a half bushels of seed wheat, 5 *s.*	–	12	6
Harvesting	–	17	–
Thrashing and marketing	–	15	–
Trenching and levelling	–	3	–
Two years' rent, tithe and rates	3	10	–
Two years' interest upon 8 *l.* capital employed	–	16	–
£.	10	4	6

Bean Crop:	£.	s.	d.
One plough	–	14	–
Preparing, felling, leading and spreading 12 loads of manure, at 2 *s.* per load	1	4	–
Four bushels of seed, 4 *s.*	–	16	–
Setting ditto, 1 *s.* 9 *d.*	–	7	–
Hoeing three times, 4 *s.*	–	12	–
Harvesting	–	15	–
Thrashing and taking to market	–	10	–
Year's rent, tithe and rates	1	15	–
Simple interest upon 8 *l.*	–	8	–
Total expense of beans	7	1	–
Total amount for wheat	10	4	6
£.	17	5	6

Produce of Two Crops in Three Years:

	£.	s.	d.
Vetches to be fed off	1	5	–
Thirty bushels of wheat, at 5 *s.*	7	10	–
Stover of straw	–	10	–
Thirty-six bushels of beans, at 4 *s.*	7	4	–
Stover of straw	–	10	–
Total amount made by produce	16	19	–
Total amount expended	17	5	6
Loss to cultivator £.	–	6	6

Expense

Expense of cultivating One Acre of inferior Clay Land, without any charge for Rent.

Wheat Crop:	£.	s.	d.
Four ploughings, 12 s. 6 d.	2	10	–
Dunging for vetches, or top-dressing ditto	1	4	–
Three bushels of seed vetches, 6 s.	–	18	–
Three bushels of seed wheat, 5 s.	–	15	–
Preparing seed and sowing ditto	–	1	–
Harrowing and picking thistles	–	3	–
Trenching and levelling	–	3	–
Weeding	–	2	6
Harvesting	–	12	–
Thrashing and marketing	–	7	6
Two years' tithe and rates	–	16	–
Two years' interest upon 4 l.	–	8	–
£.	8	–	–

Bean Crop;	£.	s.	d.
One plough	–	14	–
Preparing, felling, leading and spreading 12 loads of manure	1	4	–
Four bushels of seed, 4 s.	–	16	–
Setting ditto, 1 s. 9 d.	–	7	–
Hoeing three times, 4 s.	–	12	–
Harvesting	–	10	–
Thrashing and marketing	–	8	–
Tithe and rates	–	8	–
Interest on 4 l. capital	–	4	–
Bean crop	5	3	–
Wheat crop and vetches	8	–	–
£.	13	3	–

Produce of Three Years upon One Acre of poor Clay Land:

	£.	s.	d.
Vetches to feed off	1	–	–
Twenty bushels of wheat, 5 s.	5	–	–
Twenty-four bushels of beans, 4 s.	4	16	–
	10	16	–
Stover of two crops of straw	–	16	–
Total produce	11	12	–
Total expense	13	3	–
Loss to cultivator £.	1	11	–

Without allowing anything for rent, repairs of buildings, land-tax, housekeeping, blighted crops, dead horses, or wet harvests, or even for ditching or underdraining, which are indispensable.

Expense of cultivating One Acre of first-rate Turnip and Barley Land, and the probable Produce of the Four Crops; viz. Turnip, Barley, Clover and Wheat.

Fallow for Turnips:	£.	s.	d.
Four ploughs, at 9 s.	1	16	–
Artificial dressing	1	10	–
Harrowing and rolling	–	3	–
Turnip seed	–	2	–
Hoeing	–	12	–
One year's rent, tithe and rates	2	–	–
Simple interest upon 8 l. capital employed	–	8	–
£.	6	11	–

Clover Crop:	£.	s.	d.
Clover seed and sowing	–	10	6
Ashes for clover, including carriage and spreading	1	4	–
Mowing, making and stacking clover	–	10	–
Rent, tithe and rates	2	–	–
Simple interest upon 8 l.	–	8	–
£.	4	12	6

Barley Crop:	£.	s.	d.
Two ploughs	–	18	–
Harrowing and rolling	–	3	–
Four bushels of seed, 3 s. 6 d.	–	14	–
Sowing	–	–	6
Weeding	–	2	–
Harvesting	–	10	–
Thrashing and market	–	12	–
Rent, tithe and rates	2	–	–
Simple interest upon 8 l.	–	8	–
£.	5	7	6

Wheat Crop:	£.	s.	d.
One plough	–	12	–
Four harrowings	–	3	–
Dressing	1	10	–
Two and a half bushels of seed, 5 s.	–	12	6
Preparing and sowing ditto	–	1	–
Weeding	–	3	–
Harvesting	–	17	–
Thrashing and marketing	–	15	–
Rent, tithe and rates	2	–	–
Simple interest upon 8 l.	–	8	–
£.	7	1	6

Total Amount of Expense of cultivating One Acre (upon the Four-course system) of first-rate Barley Land.

	£. s. d.
First year, fallow for turnips	6 11 –
Second ditto, barley	5 7 6
Third ditto, clover	4 12 6
Fourth ditto, wheat	7 1 6
£.	23 12 6

Produce:	£. s. d.	
Turnip crop, to be fed off	3 – –	
Five quarters of barley, 28 *s.*	7 – –	
One ton 10 cwt. of clover hay, at 60 *s.*	4 10 –	
Thirty bushels of wheat, at 5 *s.*	7 10 –	
Stover of straw upon barley and wheat crops	1 – –	
		23 – –
Loss to cultivator £.		– 12 6

Without any allowance for blighted crops, wet harvest, dead stock, and other contingencies.

Expense of cultivating One Acre of inferior Turnip Land, for Four Years.

Fallow for Turnips:	£. s. d.
Four ploughs, 9 *s.*	1 16 –
Artificial dressing	2 – –
Harrowing and rolling	– 3 –
Turnip seed	– 2 –
Hoeing turnips	– 12 –
One year's rent, tithe and rates	1 5 –
Simple interest upon 5 *l.* capital	– 5 –
£.	6 3 –

Clover Crop:	£. s. d.
Clover seed and sowing	– 10 6
Ashes for clover, carting and spreading	1 4 –
Mowing clover, making and stacking	– 10 –
Rent, tithe and rates	1 5 –
Simple interest	– 5 –
£.	3 14 6

Barley Crop:	£. s. d.
Two ploughs, 9 *s.*	– 18 –
Harrowing and rolling	– 3 –
Five bushels of seed, 3 *s.* 6 *d.*	– 17 6
Sowing ditto	– – 6
Weeding	– 3 –
Harvesting	– 8 –
Thrashing and marketing	– 8 –
Rent, tithe and rates	1 5 –
Simple interest upon 5 *l.* employed	– 5 –
£.	4 8 –

Wheat Crop:	£. s. d.
One plough	– 12 –
Four harrowings	– 3 –
Dressing	1 10 –
Three bushels of seed	– 15 –
Preparing and sowing ditto	– 1 –
Weeding	– 3 –
Harvesting	– 12 –
Thrashing and market	– 10 –
Rent, tithe and rates	1 5 –
Interest	– 5 –
£.	5 16 –

Total Expense of cultivating One Acre of inferior Turnip and Barley Land, for Four successive Years; viz.

	£. s. d.
Fallow for turnips	6 3 –
Barley crop	4 8 –
Clover crop	3 14 6
Wheat crop	5 16 –
	20 1 6

The probable Produce of One Acre of inferior Turnip and Barley Land, for Four successive Years; viz.

	£. s. d.	
Turnip crop, to feed off	£. 2 – –	
Four quarters of barley, at 28 *s.*	5 12 –	
Twenty-five cwt. of clover hay, at 3 *s.*	3 15 –	
Twenty bushels of wheat, 5 *s.*	5 – –	
Stover of barley and wheat crops	– 16 –	
		17 3 –
Loss to cultivator £.		2 18 6

Independent of blighted crops, wet harvests and dead stock.

259

Mr. *William Cox.*

6 May 1836.

14175. On the description of land of which you have been speaking, is it customary to keep a flock of sheep?—Yes.

14176. In your experience, have those flocks diminished in number?—Very much four or five years ago; they have increased latterly, but not increased in the hands of the farmers upon the poor land; they have upon the best description of land.

14177. Upon the poor land have they not taken them in by way of agistment, rather than purchase their own?—Yes.

14178. That arises from the diminished capital of the farmers occupying those lands?—Exactly.

14179. On an ordinary crop of tares, how many sheep do you run per acre?—It depends upon how large they are allowed to get before they are broken up; tares are things that soon get too old, and I generally begin mine very early, and eat them off three times.

14180. Have you stocked them already this year?—Yes, a fortnight ago; but that is not upon my clay land.

14181. Generally speaking, do you find that the farmers of that poor description of land have ploughed up much grass land of late years?—Many of them have to make labour; they have more labourers than they can profitably employ.

14182. When, from their poverty, they are obliged to diminish the quantity of stock, do they generally mow the land that they used formerly to pasture?—Yes, or agist it.

14183. *Chairman.*] In the estimate which you have given in of the expense and the produce of the green crops upon an acre of clay land, the rent and tithe and poor-rates are put down at 1*l.* 15*s.* an acre?—Yes; 25*s.* for rent, 5*s.* for tithe, and 5*s.* for rates.

14184. And it appears that the produce amounts to 21*l.* 14*s.*, and the expenses to 22*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.*, making a loss to the cultivator of 1*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.*, after allowing him fair interest for his money?—That is for wheat at 5*s.* a bushel.

14185. Does not it clearly appear, from that calculation, that the amount which you have left for poor-rate and tithe is considerably too high?—It may be too high, but it is much less than it used to be.

14186. Is not it still too high to meet the present prices?—So it appears from the produce.

14187. You have put the produce, 30 bushels of wheat, at 5*s.* a bushel; how much wheat did you sell last year at 5*s.* a bushel?—I did not sell myself; I have kept mine.

14188. Was there much sold at that price by the farmers about you?—More sold at 5*s.* than above; that is the price that we made up our averages upon; we always take three averages, Michaelmas, Christmas and Lady-day; and I made up those averages from the general averages of the county.

14189. The Lady-day average of wheat was higher than 5*s.* a bushel?—Yes; but then we have the Michaelmas and Christmas to take with it, and they were only 4*s.* 6*d.*

14190. Do you think much wheat has been sold under 5*s.*?—Yes, all out of the hands of the poor farmers.

14191. When you say "the poor farmers," you mean farmers without capital?—Yes.

14192. But the farmers who have capital, have they sold much wheat at 5*s.* a bushel?—I have not myself.

14193. Have they a good stock in hand at present?—I do not think the stock is large at present; it looks large, because the wheat was bulky last year, and does not yield well.

14194. In your second calculation you make the expenditure of three years exceed the profit of the three years by 6*s.* 6*d.*; surely a slight reduction of rent would set that account straight?—Yes; but this is leaving nothing for the farmer; he got no profit, only five per cent. for his capital.

14195. You have put two years' interest on capital at 16*s.*?—Yes.

14196. You have given, for two years' rent, tithe and poor-rate, 2*l.* 10*s.*; now is not that putting the rent and tithe and poor-rate much too high?—The poor-rate and tithe invariably, upon the land, would come to more than 10*s.*, and then it is only 15*s.* a year for the landlord.

Mr. *William Cox.*
6 May 1836.

14197. Does not it follow that the landlord must expect to have rent for the land?—The rent is not less than that, but they have reduced it very much; this description of land used to be 25 *s.* an acre.

14198. Do you consider that the reduction, on the part of the landlords, has been sufficient to meet the present times?—It is not sufficient to meet the present times; but we cannot cultivate that land even without rent.

14199. In your last calculation of the four-course system upon the poor turnip soil, you put the rent at 15 *s.* an acre, and the tithe and poor-rate at 10 *s.* an acre?—Yes.

14200. Do you know any farm on which the rates are as high as 5 *s.* an acre?—Yes, many.

14201. Has there been any reduction of the rates upon this farm?—There has been a reduction, but still they would be 5 *s.* an acre now; and that land used to be rented at 25 *s.*

14202. Since the new poor law has been in operation there has been a reduction of the rate?—Up to Lady-day.

14203. Do you think there is any probability of the rate remaining so high as 5 *s.*?—I should expect that, when they have had it a whole year under the new system, it will be reduced to 4 *s.*, and perhaps 3 *s.* 6 *d.*

14204. Is not the tithe too high at 5 *s.* an acre?—I have been myself a tithe valuer for 20 years, and our plan is this: we first ascertain what the rent ought to be, and we give the clergyman one-fifth upon the arable land, and an eighth upon the grass land. Now, according to that calculation I have made it too high, because upon our calculation it would only be 3 *s.*; but some of the clergymen have not reduced the tithes in proportion to the rents.

14205. The light turnip land would carry sheep?—Yes.

14206. Is the price of mutton low at present?—No, it is very high; but that is not an advantage to the farmer in general, because he lost his turnips.

14207. Has not the price of mutton, the last three or four years, been sufficient to pay the farmer?—No; last spring he got less than he gave for them.

14208. What do you say to the price of wool?—The price of wool has been good.

14209. The profits of stock are not put down in this account, are they?—Yes; I have put 3 *l.* an acre for the turnip crop, and 1 *l.* 5 *s.* an acre for the vetch crop upon the best land.

14210. Will that cover all the profits of the stock?—It will cover all, except what is sacrificed for the sake of the manure; that is equal to the other advantages.

14211. You have wheat upon this light land once in four years?—Yes.

14212. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] Suppose a farm of fair mixed soil to be let to a good tenant at the calculation of wheat bearing the price of 7 *s.* a bushel, and other grain in proportion, what abatement of rent should you say ought to be made, so as to meet the price of 5 *s.* a bushel for wheat, and other grain in proportion?—Wheat at 5 *s.* per bushel would annihilate rent altogether upon poor land, and reduce it 50 per cent. upon good land. Take for instance 30 bushels, the produce of three years; upon good land the reduction is 3 *l.* per acre, or 1 *l.* per acre each year; and upon poor land, 2 *s.* per bushel for 20 bushels is 2 *l.*, or 13 *s.* 4 *d.* per acre yearly.

14213. What rate of wages are you now giving?—Eight or nine shillings for a common man; we have task-work all that we can; and we give the cattle men 10 *s.* and 11 *s.*

14214. Have you not for two or three years past been giving a rate of wages not justified by the price of corn?—We have been paying more than we could afford; but I believe our labourers could not do with less.

14215. Your wages have been given with reference to the necessity of maintaining the labourer and his family decently, and not with reference to the price of corn?—Yes; we have more labourers than we want, even now we have these public works going on; most of the labourers are taken up. The women and children used to be employed in making lace and in making straw plait, and those have both failed.

14216. Has there been an extensive migration of labourers and families into the manufacturing districts?—There has.

14217. Have they gone under a contract for a term of years?—I do not suppose there is any binding contract; there is an agreement for a term of years.

14218. *Chairman.*]

14218. *Chairman.*] What is the condition of the labourers in your neighbourhood?—The labourers are not well off in Buckinghamshire.

14219. Are there many out of employment?—We have not so many out of employment as we had; there are very few out of employment now, in consequence of the railroads and other public works.

14220. Has the new poor law come into operation in your neighbourhood?—Yes.

14221. Is your parish included in any union?—Yes.

14222. How long has it been so?—Since Midsummer.

14223. Has that had an advantageous effect upon the conduct of the labourers?—To a certain extent it has benefited the rate-payer. I think it has worked well with the idle and the profligate.

14224. The farmer now expects to get, and does get, a fair day's work from the labourer for the wages he gives him?—Yes.

14225. Which he did not do before the new poor law came into operation?—No.

14226. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] You said that many of the labourers are employed upon public works, or have migrated into manufacturing districts; now if those public works were at an end, and trade was to become slack, these labourers must come back upon you?—Certainly; that is the understanding on which they are taken.

14227. Have you been much engaged in the management of workhouses in Buckinghamshire?—We have not till now had many workhouses.

14228. Are any workhouses in contemplation under the new poor law?—Yes, throughout the county; the county is divided into districts of about 13 to 36 parishes in an union.

14229. Should you say that the regulation contemplated under the new Poor-law Act, with respect to the separation of the sexes, could be carried into effect without difficulty?—I think it cannot; I think anything that does violence to human nature would be attended with difficulty; and I do not think the new poor law could have been carried into effect if it had not been for the public works.

14230. Has not the new Poor-law Bill been attended with great advantage, both from the circumstance of the low rate of provisions, and also from the great prosperity of manufacturing employments?—Decidedly; it never could have been brought about without those circumstances.

14231. *Chairman.*] Have you had any workhouses in your neighbourhood under the Gilbert Act?—Yes, we have had workhouses for years.

14232. Did you ever observe the management of those workhouses?—I do not think they were beneficial to the parishes in general; they were badly managed.

14233. In those workhouses did they allow the men and women to be mixed together in the same ward?—Not the unmarried ones; only a man and his wife together; we had different wards for different sexes, except man and wife.

14234. Where you had men and their wives were they all kept in one ward, or had each man and wife a separate chamber?—Each man and wife had a separate chamber.

14235. Had you a sufficient number of chambers to admit of every man and his wife having a separate room?—We did not receive them, except under particular circumstances. If a man was disabled, he was received as a mere temporary thing; but we were not in the habit of receiving able-bodied men that had wives into our workhouse; they always have cottages.

14236. Sir *Robert Price.*] In your part of the country you were not very favourably disposed to the poor law?—I was not.

14237. Nevertheless you think it has done some good?—I think it has worked well where there has been sympathy manifested by the guardians and by the employers. I know many parishes where indiscriminately they pay the man without a family and the man with a family the same wages; and I do the same, but I give all the men that have large families the best task-work, so that by working more hours in the day they can earn a little more money.

14238. You are now of opinion that it is likely to lower the rates, and to have a good moral effect upon the lazy and indolent?—It will work well where there is a little sympathy manifested.

14239. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] Do not you think that now there is every disposition to give aid to the new Poor-law Bill, provided it is not pressed forward

Mr. *William Cox.*

6 May 1836.

with precipitate haste?—I think there are many persons that were averse to it are now friendly to it. I think that, generally speaking, it is a favourite arrangement.

14240. What should you say has been the case with respect to the treatment of the old people; have their allowances been diminished under the new system?—Yes, they have.

14241. Is not that considered a matter of regret?—It is, by the rate-payers themselves.

14242. Supposing a rise of provisions to take place from unfavourable seasons, ought there not to be a greatly increased attention paid to that circumstance, to prevent the new poor law becoming a measure of great severity?—Yes.

14243. Must not that severity apply particularly not only to the very old but to the very young?—Yes.

14244. That is, it would be applied to the poorest and weakest part of the community?—Yes, but they have their remedy; they can go into the workhouse if they like: they will always give them an order, if they are dissatisfied with the pay, to go to the workhouse.

14245. *Chairman.*] Are they not well clothed and well fed in the workhouse?—Yes, but they have a prejudice against it.

14246. Do you know any persons that have been removed from a cottage of their own to a workhouse?—I know several that have petitioned their neighbours and friends to assist them to keep out of the workhouse.

14247. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] Is there a great inclination in your neighbourhood to emigrate to America or to other countries?—I think that has a little subsided.

14248. Mr. *Young.*] Sooner than go to the workhouse they will use every exertion to remain in their cottage?—Yes. The least allowance now is 4*s.* 6*d.* for a man and his wife out of the workhouse, for old persons.

14249. *Chairman.*] That rests with the guardians?—Yes.

14250. And the guardians are chosen out of the most respectable inhabitants of the parish?—Yes.

14251. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] Have you any large proportion of your poor that belong legally to parishes in London?—No; during the time of our having a surplus population they were all sent away that became chargeable.

Martis, 10° *die Maii*, 1836.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Shaw Lefevre.	Mr. Bingham Baring.
Mr. Handley.	Mr. Evans.
The O'Conor Don.	Marquis of Chandos.
Mr. Miles.	Sir Edward Knatchbull.
Mr. Heathcote.	Mr. Cayley.
Sir Charles Burrell.	Earl of Lincoln.

MR. SHAW LEFEVRE, IN THE CHAIR.

Edward Silvester Shawe, Esq. called in; and Examined.

E. S. *Shawe*, Esq.

10 May 1836.

14252. *Chairman.*] WHERE do you reside?—At Kilglas, in the county of Kildare.

14253. What is your occupation?—I own some land, I rent a good deal of land, and I am a tolerably extensive land agent.

14254. What quantity of land do you rent yourself?—I have in my own occupation about 520 English acres.

14255. Have you most experience in the county of Kildare, or are there other counties in Ireland with the agriculture of which you are particularly acquainted?—I have acted as agent in various counties; I act at present as agent on large estates,

estates, between 6,000*l.* and 7,000*l.* a year, in the county of Cork, which I have managed for 15 or 16 years; I have property myself in King's County, I receive about 10,000*l.* a year rent in King's County; in the county of Galway I have been employed to value estates; I have let a good deal of land in Westmeath, Dublin, Meath, Kildare, King's County and Cork; I acted for the late Lord Longford in Westmeath.

14256. What is the condition of the farmers in those counties you have just mentioned, as compared with what it was in 1833?—I think that the farmers who have, according as they got wealth, got (more or less) out of tillage, and have stock, are in a fair way of paying their rents; the small farmers, who are entirely dependent on agriculture, are not in a way of paying their rents.

14257. The land in Ireland is very much subdivided into small farms, is it not? Very much.

14258. Has there been an union of those small farms lately, and have larger farms been formed?—I do not think there has; in what I have managed I have never wished to dispossess any one; I have always wished to break up everything in the shape of joint-tenancy, or tenants holding in common; I let every person hold his own. I have not dispossessed in any place, with the exception of one or two persons of bad character; I endeavour to accommodate whomever I find upon the land.

14259. Are the Committee to understand that the condition of the large farmer alone is improved?—Decidedly.

14260. Is the condition of the small farmer improved or not?—I think it is improved; but I think he is not able to pay the rents laid upon him five or six years ago.

14261. You said just now that the farmers were in a state of improvement, and were giving up tillage in consequence?—Decidedly, according as they get wealthy I consider that they give up tillage; I do not mean that they give up tillage entirely, but that they have part of their farms under stock and part in tillage.

14262. They lay down their land to grass, and take to stock farming?—Yes, decidedly so; I myself merely till to lay down grass in a proper manner; I consider that stock paid very well last year.

14263. How much of your land is in tillage and how much in grass?—I suppose I may have about 42 English acres in tillage, and I have probably 480 acres in grass.

14264. What is the description of soil?—I hold three or four different farms; where I live is a light sand soil, or gravel soil under the surface, which is very kind; what we call a sheep farm. I hold another farm of deep soil, entirely in grass, and on which we fatten cattle; I fatten cattle and send them to Dublin market, or sell them to jobbers at fairs; rear them from steers, keep them and send them there when fat. There is a part of my grass on which I rear cattle in summer.

14265. What is the usual course of husbandry in those farms which are in tillage?—I think we generally break the leys with oats, then clear the ground well and plant potatoes or turnips, mostly potatoes; then those who, like me, wish to lay to grass lay down with barley.

14266. The soil is of very rich quality, is it not?—It is of good quality.

14267. What is the average produce of oats per acre?—The average of the county I conceive would be about 12 Irish barrels of 196 lbs.; a barrel and a half would make a quarter or nearly: about eight quarters is the average of farmers; but if the land is cultivated remarkably well, and with only a few acres tilled on the farm, it will perhaps give 10 quarters to the plantation acre.

14268. Do you speak of English or Irish acres?—Of Irish acres; about five quarters to the statute acre is, I conceive, the common produce of oats, supposing the quarter to be about a barrel and a half.

14269. Is there much wheat grown in any part of that county with which you are acquainted?—A great deal; the small tenants principally strive to make their rent of wheat, and that is the reason they have been distressed, from the low price of wheat; wheat has been much lower compared to other grain.

14270. How often do they grow wheat on that land?—Generally every third year.

14271. After what crop?—Almost always after potatoes, the small farmers always after potatoes; there are some instances of fallows, but, generally speaking,

E. S. Shawe, Esq.
10 May 1836.

the small tenants have not land to make fallows; and there is more land in green crop than formerly, and more brought to be fit for wheat every year.

14272. What is the acreable produce of wheat on the average?—About two quarters and a half to the English acre, about eight barrels to the Irish acre, is the common average of wheat; I very generally have more; I myself sold 13 barrels to the Irish acre, that would be about 6 ½ quarters according to the Liverpool weight, where it is 70 lbs. a bushel; I have had, according to that, four quarters to the English acre, but I consider that quite over the average.

14273. In those small farms in which wheat is grown, is there any other grain grown?—Yes, almost always oats after wheat; if the land is not able to give oats after wheat, they sometimes sow pease in place of oats.

14274. Will you state the course?—First potatoes, then wheat, then oats; then potatoes again, then wheat again.

14275. Do they manure for the potato crop?—Always; every crop of potatoes is manured for.

14276. Do they manure for the oats or the wheat?—No, for neither.

14277. What is the rent of land grown in that manner on the average?—The average I conceive about 18*s.* 6*d.* an English acre.

14278. What are the local burthens attached to that land?—They pay all the county rates, which may come to about 2*s.* 6*d.* the Irish acre, being from 18*d.* to 20*d.* the statute acre; the county rates are very irregular in the county of Kildare; the cess is raised in that county by what are called plough lands, which is a very undefined measure, for some are much larger than others. There are in the county of Kildare 162 ⅜ plough lands, and on those plough lands what we call the county money is assessed; they are then divided into 14 baronies, of unequal size, and an unequal number of plough lands. The barony I live in has 17 plough lands, containing about 1,250 Irish acres on an average to a plough land; that would be about 2,020 English acres to a plough land, and the cess therefore cannot be exactly defined; some of my own lands pay greater cess than others, but I think that from 18*d.* to 2*s.* will pay the two cesses on an average of English acres. All persons holding by lease are liable to tithe; I cannot say that they all pay it.

14279. Is that the only charge you have?—Yes, with the exception of tithe; I mean to state, that rent and county rates are the only charges on the farmers except tithe. The tithe in Leinster is very reasonable generally, with the exception of where it borders on the south and west, as at Kilkenny. The tithe in Kildare is extremely reasonable, certainly not above one-twelfth of the produce.

14280. The whole charge on land does not amount to more than about 1*l.* an acre?—No, it does not, exclusive of tithe; that would be about 1*s.* 4*d.* an English acre on an average; therefore, generally speaking, with reference to the lands through the county of Kildare and King's County, to the small tenants the charge would be about 1*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.* on an average.

14281. You speak generally to the whole of the county?—Yes; I am an old magistrate of the county, and have been attending juries these twenty years, and have been on committees of account, and know the state of the county.

14282. Mr. *Miles.*] When was the survey made on which this cess was founded?—I cannot tell; it is what is called the Down survey; I think it is probable it might have been made immediately after James the First.

14283. So that the whole cultivation has been materially altered since the cess?—Very materially; the consequence is, the high gravel lands, many of which are very poor, pay a great deal higher cess than the low bottom lands, many of which are very rich.

14284. *Chairman.*] Turning to the county of Cork, what is the state of the farmers in that county?—The farmers that I manage there are generally rather small tenants; there the English acre is in use almost entirely; the tenants I think generally hold from 30 to 40 English acres of indifferent land; the lands of Cork, with the exception of some few parts, are generally very indifferent.

14285. There is not much grazing land there?—Hardly any such thing.

14286. What is the course of cropping in that county?—Very much the same; in the part of the county I am best acquainted with, in the neighbourhood of Youghall, the poor people procure a quantity of manure, sand or sea-weed, or lime; a great part will not grow wheat, and then they naturally depend on oats,

and

and some, as it is improved, grow barley; there is not as much wheat grown comparatively as in the county of Kildare.

14287. The principal produce is oats?—Yes.

14288. Do they draw their manure on the land still by the conacre?—What would be called conacre in my county would not be called conacre there; they do not set anything but what they call rent gardens; to the very poor they set potato soil in the county of Cork; it is not common to set what they call conacre in the county of Kildare; in which county it has been the custom with those who were distressed to break up their old ley lands and set them for potato lands and corn lands, but the land would not bear that in Cork.

14289. The land is manured at the expense of the tenant?—Yes.

14290. What is the rent?—The rent given is about 6 *l.* an acre.

14291. What is the rent paid by the farmer to his landlord?—Not above 16 *s.* on an average.

14292. Are the local burdens pretty much the same as in Kildare?—I think they are heavier; the tithe is monstrous, if they paid it, but they do not pay it; the tithe in Cork, on the average, is about a seventh of the real value of the farm, and from that to a fifth of the real value; I know of instances where it is a fifth of the real value, or very near it.

14293. What is the condition of the tenantry in that county?—Very nearly dependent upon their landlords; at the same time, a very hard-working well-conditioned people, but very poor, much poorer than farmers in Kildare.

14294. The *O'Conor Don.*] What is the condition of the farmers in Kildare?—Generally speaking, very comfortable; they are enabled to clothe themselves well, and to live with comfort; they have occasionally a flitch of bacon hanging in their houses, but we never see such a thing in the county of Cork.

14295. *Chairman.*] Are you well acquainted with the county of Galway?—I cannot say that I am; I was merely employed to value the estate of a friend of mine, the late Mr. Bowes Daly; I never acted in the county of Galway but on that occasion. I managed some lands in the county of Clare, which adjoins Galway, and was selected by the Court of Chancery to value those lands before sale. The tenantry appeared to me to be exceedingly poor, many of them held in what is called village tenancy, and which I hold to be the worst of all tenancies.

14296. The *O'Conor Don.*] At what rate was the property of Mr. Daly sold?—Twenty-one years and three-eighths, and subject to a heavy head-rent.

14297. If you had the value of the head-rent, at what rate of purchase was it sold?—I should say at least 26 or 27 years; full 27 years, I should think.

14298. *Chairman.*] In that part of Ireland with which you are best acquainted have there been many improvements introduced into the country of late years?—A great deal. I look upon it the roads of Ireland have been greatly improved; that I look upon as the first step to improvement. Then, again, our ploughs have greatly improved the system of getting more into sowing green crop, and consequently feeding cattle in stalls.

14299. A less quantity of land is devoted now to tillage than was three or four years ago?—Yes, with farmers of capital; the poor small tenants cannot do anything but till.

14300. Mr. *Evans.*] From want of capital?—Yes, and from want of extent of ground also.

14301. *Chairman.*] Supposing you were requested to value lands for letting, on what principle should you value them?—According to the stock that I would consider it able to rear, or the quantity of wheat I should think, according to the quality of the soil, it would raise, or, in the county of Cork, according to the quantity of oats, and according to the population; I consider that the population of Cork being more dense than with us, lands let a great deal higher. I think that people in Kildare are a great deal better off; they have their lands a great deal better for the value. The only way in which the people in Cork can live is by the quantity of manure they draw.

14302. Mr. *Miles.*] The denser the population, the higher you would place the rents?—Decidedly, the rents are higher.

14303. Generally speaking, the charity to the poor comes from the tenant himself, does it not?—I have always wished to let the lands to the tenants on the estates I manage on such terms that I considered they could live comfortably, but still they can afford to pay more where there is a greater facility of getting manure; and when there is a greater competition, we must expect to let at a higher

E. S. Shawe, Esq.

10 May 1836.

rent. When the lands have come out of the hands of middlemen, I have always let them at less than the middleman charged.

14304. The denser the population, the greater the rent paid?—Yes; labour is cheaper, and they can afford to pay more than where we pay a great deal higher for labour, and where manure is not so easily got.

14305. Whose estates do you manage in the county of Cork and the other counties to which you have referred?—Lord Ponsonby's, in Cork; the late Mr. Bowes Daly's estate, now the Hon. Frederick Ponsonby's estate, in King's County; Lord Trimlestown's estate in King's County; Lord Ponsonby's in the King's County; Mr. Dobb's, in the county of Kildare; Sir Thomas Staples', in the county of Dublin; Sir John Vandeleur's, in the county of Meath; the Hon. John Wingfield Stratford's estate, in the county of Clare, and some properties as receiver under the courts.

14306. Out of those estates, which should you say was the most dense as to population?—Lord Ponsonby's, in Cork.

14307. Are you to be understood that the mere cotter there pays 6*l.* per acre for land which he takes, and that he himself manures it?—He never manures it, that is manured by the tenant; it does not pay at all, in proportion, to Lord Ponsonby; he does not get more than about 16*s.* an English acre upon it on an average.

14308. What is the condition of the tenants upon Lord Ponsonby's estate?—I consider they are improving, but they are at the same time very poor; their holdings are small, and most of the land is poor.

14309. Have they introduced any sort of green crops?—Not very much.

14310. What do they generally crop with?—Very little except potatoes; some little clover.

14311. Do not you consider that the land gets tired of potatoes after a few years?—Yes, and particularly light weak land.

14312. Is not land deteriorated by the frequent use of potatoes?—No, but by the subsequent cropping of corn crops.

14313. What subsequent cropping afterwards do you use?—Generally barley and oats; if the land is good enough to give barley, always barley; if not so, then oats, generally speaking black oats.

14314. Mr. *Evans.*] You state you did not dispossess any of the tenants when the farms fell under your management?—Hardly ever.

14315. Was that from motives of humanity?—Certainly.

14316. Otherwise you consider it would be an advantage to consolidate the farms?—Decidedly an advantage.

14317. *Chairman.*] On those small farms in the county of Cork, are the farm buildings upheld by the tenant?—Almost entirely; but I got liberty from Lord Ponsonby to give about 200*l.* every year towards the benefit of the estate, and I make an allowance to all the tenants who put up slated houses; I pay them what I consider one-third of the expense of the building, what buys timber and slates, for a slated roof; I get so many houses or barns built every year in that way, but I never allow anything but for a slated roof.

14318. The *O'Conor Don.*] What is the size of the estate?—About 10,000 English acres.

14319. All this is allowed as outgoings?—Yes.

14320. *Chairman.*] What is the state of the farm buildings in the county of Kildare?—They are very comfortable, but they are almost exclusively done at their own expense; not by the landlords at all; the landlords will occasionally give to a man who makes an improvement and puts a slated roof some allowance, in the proportion of half a year's rent, but it is not at all general.

14321. The *O'Conor Don.*] It is not general in any part of Ireland?—No, it is not.

14322. *Chairman.*] Is not the having a good house or barn of great advantage in harvesting the crop?—No; we never put any grain into the house.

14323. You have your barns?—Yes, all have barns in Kildare.

14324. Do you thrash your corn by machinery or hand labour?—Generally, by hand labour; a man must be very strong before he puts up a thrashing-machine. I have known it done on Sir Thomas Staples' estate, by two or three farmers, related to one another, joining.

14325. Has the quantity of corn grown in the county of Kildare, much increased of late years?—It is probable it has; the land gives more produce than

it did formerly; but there is not nearly so much land in tillage as there was formerly.

14326. The acreable produce is greater, but not the total amount?—No, I should think not.

14327. Are the profits of the farm greater than they were 20 years ago?—Twenty years ago was immediately after the peace; at that time the profits were very low; the acme of setting I think was from 1811 to 1813, and from that I think they fell; 20 years ago was a very bad time for us; the years 1816 and 1817 were dreadfully bad years.

14328. Does that pay equally with the grazing and dairy land?—Dairy lands paid very much higher than they do now, so did grazing lands; but I look upon it, both dairy and grazing lands are quite sufficient to pay a fair rent, and that when they are held by tenants who have sufficient means, they answer very well.

14329. Is the quality of the produce much improved of late?—I think it is; we are very much in the habit of getting new seed in.

14330. Is the white or red wheat grown chiefly?—On lands cleaned sufficiently, if of very nice quality, not deep soil, the white wheats grow well and pay best; but they would not answer on the deep soil; a great deal of the county of Kildare is a manuring gravel subsoil.

14331. Mr. *Handley*.] A great portion of the county of Kildare at present is under grass?—I conceive it is.

14332. For the most part of a good feeding quality?—Yes, for the most part; there is a good deal of very light land, but there is a good deal in it of good feeding land; there is a large proportion of good feeding land in it.

14333. Is it usual for you to buy your stock from other parts of the county, or do you breed those you fatten?—We rear a good deal, but not anything like enough; we purchase a good many.

14334. The breed of cattle in Ireland has much improved of late?—Very much.

14335. You cross your breed of sheep with the Leicester?—Yes.

14336. Has that given you more wool?—It gives us a longer and stronger staple.

14337. What has been the price of your wool for the last year?—Wool is now very high, as much as 27*s*. a stone.

14338. Your stone is sixteen pounds?—Yes; wool has sold higher the last few years than for a previous period.

14339. It has been much sought after by the manufacturers of Yorkshire?—Yes.

14340. Have you not improved your breed of cattle by crossing with the Durham?—Very much.

14341. Do you find that they come to earlier maturity in consequence?—Yes.

14342. What is the average stock per acre you have fed on the land you have described at about 22*s*. an acre, rent and tithes?—Every acre I consider would keep about three sheep, or every two acres one beast, of the black cattle, as we call it. I mean a cow or heifer three years old, or upwards; or bullocks, if not very large; if very large, they would require more land, unless the land was very superior. I mean English acres, about two acres to a three-year old heifer; we frequently make up our sheep in the county of Kildare by having rape for them; we sow rape very generally.

14343. At what age do you feed them off for sheep?—At two years old we send them out; two years old when they are nearly three.

14344. What is the average weight?—About 24 pounds a quarter.

14345. Since the establishment of steam navigation, have you found a much readier market?—A great advantage to the country.

14346. Is cattle generally sent, or sheep, to England?—Both.

14347. Do you send many to England?—I sell almost all my cattle to jobbers, who take them over; my health is not very good, and I have a good deal to do besides, and I get ready money at once by selling to jobbers.

14348. What, generally speaking, is the relative profit of tillage, suppose a cattle farm in the county of Kildare?—I think farmers who have been wholly in tillage farming at 18*s*. 6*d*. an acre, looking to make their rent from wheat crops, have not been able to pay their rents, and that those who have had the same quality of land in grass, have been able to live comfortably and pay their rents.

E. S. Shawe, Esq.

10 May 1836.

14349. You find a greater facility in letting a grass than an arable farm?—Much greater.

14350. Has there been much improvement in tillage cultivation in Kildare?—A great deal.

14351. Any drainage?—A great deal; on every estate I manage, I drain the great drains at the expense of the landlords.

14352. Has there much new land come into cultivation?—There is a good deal in Kildare of bog edges, land that had been bog and was improved by drainage, and by cutting away the turf; but in Cork, and some wild counties, they are getting up the mountains and tilling those which might be called the waste lands; that is almost entirely owing to the dense population.

14353. Can you describe the process by which land of that description is brought into cultivation?—It is very simple; it is the turf cut out of it, and it is drained, and then there is manuring gravel or clay put upon it, dung over the clay, and planted with potatoes once or twice, and then probably laid down with rape and grass seeds.

14354. Are you to be understood that the turf being taken away, it has been used for fuel?—Yes.

14355. If you endeavoured to reclaim on a large scale, it would be impracticable, would it not?—It is my opinion it does not pay; I am quite aware of various people having tried, more particularly Mr. Featherstone; my own opinion is, it does not pay; Mr. Featherstone states that it costs him 13 *l.* an acre to improve, and I do not think it is worth the rent after the money is laid out.

14356. Do you know the cost per acre?—He states it at 13 *l.*; I think the land would not be worth the outlay afterwards.

14357. Have you seen any of this reclaimed land?—I have; I am acquainted with that land tolerably well; I have of my own property about 140 or 150 acres of bog, and I do not think that would pay for improving.

14358. You think Mr. Featherstone's land, now laid down in grass, will not pay rent and adequate interest for the outlay?—I think not; I think he laid out his money badly as looking at a rent.

14359. The *O'Conor Don.*] Do you know the rent he receives?—He holds it in his own hand; he has cut away a great deal of remarkably fine land to make up this, which he has reduced to a *caput mortuum*; in my opinion, he has acted injudiciously; at the same time, he is a remarkably clever intelligent man, and, as far as I know, a clever man of business; but I would not follow his example.

14360. Has not the great improvement consisted in covering it with limestone gravel?—Yes; and he gets that limestone gravel by carrying away the soil of other land; he excavates this room, for instance, to cover that area; then he reduces this room to a mere *caput mortuum*; it is not worth anything.

14361. Are not his quarries of considerable depth?—Yes, the bog is generally under the land; the bog adjoins high ground, which is, in consequence, more easily moved.

14362. You consider that the reclaiming of bog is not in general profitable to the projector?—After being cut for fuel, I think it may be profitable; I do not think on wild red bog that it pays for improvement.

14363. Has it been the prevalent custom to burn the surface of the bog?—Certainly.

14364. Do you conceive, if a more economical process of working bog be discovered, it might be ultimately brought into use as land?—As far as my judgment has gone, I have never considered that bog was likely to pay until it was first cut away. With high bogs, I consider that the best way is to drain them, and then to allow your cattle to run over them in summer; they assist to rear these cattle, and so far it is worth having; but I do not think the red bog, or any high bog that ever I saw, which was not cut away, has paid for improvement, except by the sale of fuel where it is scarce.

14365. Has not Mr. Featherstone grown good potato crops?—Yes, and good wheat crops.

14366. You do not mean to say the bog land may not be capable of producing good crops, but that you conceive that the expense will not be repaid?—Yes, that it will not pay the expense.

14367. With reference to the tillage farms of Kildare, of which you have spoken as raising wheat, what has been the average price obtained?—Thirty-three to thirty-six shillings the quarter, Liverpool weight.

14368. Do you conceive that at those prices the lands you refer to could have been retained in wheat cultivation?—I do not think the tenants can pay rent at that price.

14369. What will be the lowest remunerating price at which he could pay the rent in a series of years?—From 56 *s.* to 60 *s.* a quarter.

14370. *Chairman.*] Would it not be more profitable to employ the land as grazing land than to grow wheat?—At the present time, decidedly.

14371. Mr. *Handley.*] What has been the process of laying down tillage land as a permanent matter?—We lay down with barley or oat crop, after being well manured for the potato crop; if they cannot get over that sufficiently, they lay down with a green crop, rape, clover and hay seeds, and eat off the rape with sheep on the ground. I mean to state, that I consider that sowing barley or oats with clover and hay seeds, after having been well manured for potatoes, is the best mode of laying down; but that if a farmer is not able to manure to a sufficient extent, he fallows the land well, and lays it down, about June or July, with rape, clover and hay seeds, and eats off the crop with sheep on the land; we seldom cut or pull such rape for house feeding.

14372. Should you find any difficulty in letting that description of land so laid down any year for the price paid for that under tillage?—Not the slightest difficulty; it would let more easily if laid down; but no person would think of taking a farm for a year unless he expected to continue it.

14373. Supposing it were under tillage, and you were paying 18 *s.* an acre, and it is laid down to seeds; do not you think the next year the same occupier would be willing to pay the same rent?—A great deal more.

14374. From the climate and other causes, there is very little difficulty in the transition from tillage to grass land?—Very little; it can be brought about in two years by good tillage.

14375. Sir *E. Knatchbull.*] Do you mean that that grass land would then be in as good a state as before it was broken up?—No.

14376. What time would it take to restore it to its original state?—After immediately being laid down it would pay just as well with sheep and lambs; it would not be fit to feed black cattle for many years.

14377. Mr. *Heathcote.*] How long would it be before land laid down in that way would be fit to fatten beasts?—Sheep immediately, instantly, nothing better; the very best for sheep and lambs; but for black cattle we do not consider that it would fatten them for probably ten years.

14378. Is that the case in all parts of Ireland?—The very rich lands in the county of Clare and the county of Limerick will come to sooner.

14379. Are there not parts of Ireland in which it will fatten them in two or three years?—Only in those very rich lands.

14380. The *O'Conor Don.*] Does not that depend on the number of crops taken off?—I stated that the land should be laid down, after being well manured, with barley and grass seeds; being laid down in that way, it would immediately begin to recover; if it has been very much abused, it will take a longer time to be able to feed cattle.

14381. Are you aware that in some farms in Ireland they have taken 10 or 12 crops without any manure at all?—I have known that at different times.

14382. Does that land require a good many years to restore it?—Probably not more than three or four, if it should be very good land and properly laid down; I have known Lord Trimlestown's land in the King's County set 13 successive years in conacre.

14383. At what rent?—It first stood about 11 *l.* an acre, and came down at last to 5 *l.* or 6 *l.* an acre; the tenant then said he could not live at that; he paid 3 *l.* 5 *s.* an acre for it. This entirely alludes to the plantation acre; the tenant paid about 2 *l.* per acre statute measure, besides tithe and taxes; for the first four or five crops he got as high as 7 *l.* the statute acre, and from that down to about 3 *l.* 5 *s.* per statute acre.

14384. Mr. *Handley.*] How many rents do you calculate on letting land?—I should consider the tenant was entitled to about one-third.

14385. You would calculate that the land should make three rents?—Yes.

14386. Is it the practice to let by tender to the highest bidder?—Not at all by me; I never did that; I have always let at what I considered fair rents.

14387. You state that you have only 40 acres of tillage out of a farm of upwards of 500 acres; is that the usual description of farm in Kildare, or is that a

E. S. Shawe, Esq.

10 May 1836.

more mixed tillage?—A great deal more tillage generally; it is merely graziers; there are many people in Kildare farm large quantities: one gentleman of the parish I live in holds at the present time very nearly 3,000 English acres in his hands.

14388. Is that Mr. Palmer?—Yes; and it is probable he has not, out of that, 100 acres in tillage; he has a good deal in green crop.

14389. What are the present wages of agricultural labour?—The wages about me are 10*d.* one half year, and 8 *d.* the other.

14390. What are the expenses attendant on sale, as compared with England?—I cannot say, as compared with England.

14391. What is the expense, for instance, of sending stock to the English market from Kildare?—The cost of a beast coming to Liverpool from Dublin in one way and another, is 1 *l.* 5 *s.*

14392. What is the cost to Dublin?—We generally send them five or six at a time, probably about 2 *s.* a beast, and a commission on the sale, which is 2 ½ per cent.

14393. Is barley a grain of common growth in Ireland?—Very common.

14394. And of good quality?—Of very good quality; we have improved very much of late years by getting in Scotch samples, by getting Scotch and English barley; it is a grain that requires new seed.

14395. You consider that the growth of barley is on the increase in Ireland?—Yes.

14396. And that the land is suited to it, and it might be grown to any extent?—I think so.

14397. The *O'Conor Don.*] What is the cost of sending a beast to Liverpool?—The cost of sending a beast from our market to Dublin is very little, probably from 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* a beast.

14398. How many miles?—About 30 English miles.

14399. You send them up with a drover?—Yes, half a dozen at a time; allow him 16*d.* a day travelling charges, besides his day hire; we pay about 1*s.* 8*d.* a beast and the turnpikes.

14400. What is the expense as to sheep?—I should think probably about 6*d.* to 8 *d.* a sheep up to Dublin.

14401. Do you find any difficulty in disposing of them in Dublin?—Not the slightest difficulty if they are fat.

14402. Then are they sent to Liverpool alive, or consumed in the Dublin market?—I cannot say, for I mostly sell my sheep to jobbers, who buy them at country fairs; but sheep are brought in great quantities to Dublin.

14403. Mr. *Evans.*] You do not send the drovers over to Liverpool?—I never send over to Liverpool.

14404. Mr. *Heathcote.*] What is the expense of black cattle, as to the passage?—I have sent black cattle over to Liverpool when I could not get a sale at home; they cost me 25*s.* a beast.

14405. What is the freight?—Fifteen shillings a beast.

14406. At present there appears a considerable increase in the importation of flour from Ireland; with reference to corn, is there any particular reason for that great increase?—I cannot account for it in any way; I think the wheat sold up to the first of January last, to which period a great number of poor people were obliged to sell, was bought by the millers at from 16*s.* 6*d.* to 18*s.* a barrel, each barrel being about half a quarter; at present the wheat is selling for about 29*s.*; of course the millers having bought in at 18*s.* must be making a great deal of money.

14407. There is a great increase of wheat in Ireland, is there not?—The produce is more per acre latterly than it used to be; I do not think there is more tillage in wheat than there used to be.

14408. What sort of crop was the last in Ireland?—A very favourable crop.

14409. Is there much perceptible difference in the price of the same quality of wool in England and in Ireland?—I have not the slightest knowledge of wool; I speak simply of what I have sold myself; the long staple of wool will average from 6 ½ lbs. to 7 lbs. a fleece; I have about 400 or 500 sheep, and I sell my wool nearly always in Dublin.

14410. Mr. *Cayley.*] Does that come to England?—Very generally.

14411. Has there been a great, increased demand for wool of late years?—Yes.

14412. That wool has borne a better price?—Yes.

14413. That

14413. That has helped the farmers through?—It has helped the grazing farmers through.

14414. Has there been a great, increased demand for cattle and for sheep since the war?—Certainly not; these latter years, grazing cattle have paid very indifferently, except to stall feeders, that is, the people who stall them and then sell them; they tell me they have been paid extremely well this year; they were not paid well last year.

14415. They are sent by steam packets to England?—Yes.

14416. You are aware there is a great paucity of winter food in the south?—Yes, I have heard of it; that was the cause of the great rise, I believe.

14417. You say that the stall feeders and stock farmers were not doing so well before that?—I have never stall-fed cattle, but we have always considered that stall-fed cattle ought to pay 1 *l.* a month to pay for themselves, from the time they were tied in till they were sold; they have not paid in other years; this year I dare say they paid 30 *s.* a month, at least.

14418. *Chairman.*] What was the difference in price between the buying in and the price at which they were sold?—Stall-fed cattle are bought at Ballinasloe, or from the subsequent fairs; Ballinasloe fair is on the 4th of October, the others are from that to the 1st of December; they tie in as soon as the wet weather comes on; and they consider if they get 1 *l.* a month, they are paid for their turnips or potatoes, or whatever it is; there is nothing fats so well as grains; I believe the brewers and distillers have made more in that way than others.

14419. Can you state the rate at which cattle are bought in May, and at which they are afterwards sold in October?—I have always considered in former times that they got 4 *l.* for the half year's feeding in the time of war; we used to expect that, or towards 5 *l.* for bullocks, for the grass feeding. I have been managing land I suppose since about the year 1810.

14420. What do you consider now ought to be paid?—I consider that they do not get more than 2 *l.* 10 *s.* for the half year's feeding.

14421. Mr. *Cayley.*] Have you found that instead of 2 *l.* 10 *s.*, you got nothing?—That has not happened to me, but I have heard persons say that they got nothing; I do not think I ever got less than 2 *l.*

14422. Speaking generally of farming in your part of Ireland, has there been any great change in the system of farming since the war?—I do not think there has, except that during the war a great deal of good land was turned up; and that since that, we are getting it to grass as quick as we can.

14423. The pastures were ploughed up with a view to get the benefit of the higher prices of grain?—Decidedly.

14424. Has the same result been produced by the very low state of prices, that the landlord has generally allowed his tenant the benefit of breaking up old grass land rather than reduce his rent?—Generally speaking, the tenants in Ireland are permitted to do what they please with the land.

14425. Are not they bound down?—Not generally.

14426. Have the tenants had any desire of late years, or been induced to break up the old pasture-lands, to have two or three successive crops on a virgin soil?—Decidedly, particularly the distressed tenants.

14427. There is less of the old grass land than there was?—Decidedly.

14428. Is there a smaller quantity of cattle comes from Ireland to the English market now?—I should think not; I should think the stall-feeding kept up the difference.

14429. Is there not a decrease in the quantity of store cattle exported from Ireland?—I have heard people say, that when they look for the stores, they were scarce; but I really do not think there is any scarcity; I think we have as many as we want.

14430. Do you attend the fairs?—Yes, I always buy and sell my own stock.

14431. The number at fairs appears to you as great as it was 20 years ago?—Decidedly; there were more sheep at Ballinasloe 20 years ago than now, and more beasts also, when we made up provisions for the navy and for the West Indies; but I think there have been as many the last 14 or 15 years as are required.

14432. The *O'Conor Don.*] You say there have been less at Ballinasloe; are there not now other fairs, which there used not to be?—There are more fairs than there used to be.

14433. Mr. *Handley.*] Is it not usual in Ireland to have one fair for heifers and another for bullock beasts?—I think not.

E. S. Shawe, Esq.

10 May 1836.

14434. Have not the numbers of each relatively very much varied?—I should think the proportion relatively would be very much the same.

14435. Then, if the Committee have understood that the fair at Ballinasloe is rather for bullocks than for heifers, that is not the case?—I think not; I never bought black cattle at Ballinasloe; I buy sheep there.

14436. Mr. *Cayley.*] You cannot speak to the average exportation of cattle and sheep?—No.

14437. Can you state what is the condition of the farmer now as compared with 20 years ago?—I decidedly think he is improving; at the same time, I think the farmers are not in so independent a state, inasmuch as great numbers of them hold by abatements, called temporary abatements.

14438. Do you think those abatements have taken place in proportion to the fall in the price of produce?—Generally speaking, I think they have, where they are kind landlords and where the estates have been well managed; at the same time I beg to observe, I call them temporary abatements, for the landlords have not made new leases, they may therefore look to them again; I consider the tenant is therefore a great deal more in the landlord's power.

14439. Do you conceive that the landlords have of late suffered from a depression of rents?—Yes.

14440. You conceive they have pretty heavy mortgages upon their estates?—Yes.

14441. Is not that the cause of their pressing their tenants?—I think they have not generally been pressed.

14442. Speaking of the farmers in your district, are they as rich, as a body, as they were 10 or 15 years ago?—I think they are.

14443. Were they ever possessed of a great deal of capital?—There are instances of farmers purchasing lands; some few have purchased estates, but it is very rare.

14444. Are they the same tenants who were on the land 20 years ago?—Generally they are.

14445. Have you introduced the English system of cultivation of late years?—We have sown a great deal of green crop; our plough is better; the cultivation of the land is improved, more in the Scotch manner than the English.

14446. Do you think the labourers are as well off as they were 20 years ago?—I think they are not better.

14447. Are they as fully employed as they were 20 years ago?—I think, generally speaking, they are not; in my neighbourhood they are.

14448. Notwithstanding the improved mode of cultivation?—Certainly.

14449. Does that require a greater number of hands upon an acre?—I rather think it does not; that there is a great deal more done with the plough now than formerly; as, for instance, planting potatoes, the great work at the present time of the year with us; we put down as much potatoes with two horses and five men, or five women, as probably 30 men would put down with spade husbandry.

14450. What are the wages now, compared with what they were 20 years ago?—They are very much the same they were then, taking it all together; they are in some measure better and in some measure worse off than they were; for instance, in the price of wool, a most important article to the labourer, the custom with them was to buy a stone of wool; the wife spins it, and from that wool they make clothing, whether linseys or friezes; latterly wool has been so high they have not been able to do it; the consequence is, they are not so well clothed; again, calico being so cheap is an advantage, and the females throughout the country are infinitely better clad and better looking than they were.

14451. When did the labourers begin to feel that they were less employed than they used to be?—I should think immediately after 1815.

14452. Have there been any fluctuations in their condition since 1815; were they better off in any intervals since that time?—Indeed I do not think they were.

14453. Do you remember their being very much more distressed in the years 1821 and 1822?—Certainly, very severely.

14454. Were not they better off after that?—They were better off after that; we subscribed, every one subscribed, so much; the subscriptions were general throughout the kingdom, and the English very generously contributed, in Kildare; we got nothing, I think, from England.

14455. There was at that time a great export of Irish produce to this country?—There was, very great.

14456. To what do you attribute that very great export at that period?—Generally speaking, to the distress of the Irish landlords.

14457. Is that the mode in which the distress of the Irish landlord operates?—It operates by forcing the tenant to sell the corn to make up the money, and it is then sent to England. The part of the country I live in is a very populous barony, and there are some respectable gentlemen live on their property, and others on leases for ever; they all employ a good many labourers; at the time of the distress they all subscribed in proportion liberally; meal was sold out to people at a reduced price, 16*s.* a cwt., and every man got what he would at that price; we bought it in at about double.

14458. Were not the rents principally fixed rents?—All fixed rents; after that time the landlords found they were obliged to make abatements, which they were holding over the tenants' heads before.

14459. Are there generally middlemen between the landlords and tenants?—Not at all generally.

14460. Was not it the case at that time?—Yes; it has been dropping off ever since 1798, the period of the Rebellion.

14461. Is this the effect of a fixed rent and a decline of price, that the tenant having to raise a certain amount of rent, the more the prices of produce fall, the greater quantity of produce he has to sell to make up that fixed rent, and in consequence of having to sell a greater quantity of produce, that increases the export, and therefore we may generally expect a larger export from Ireland under a fall of price?—Decidedly; the labourers are not in any way influenced by those.

14462. If there is a great export of pigs or of corn, that affords no presumption of the good condition of the Irish farmer or the Irish peasant?—I take the liberty to divide that question, by putting pork and corn separate; the higher pork is, the better for the Irish labourer; the lower the corn is, the better for the Irish labourer.

14463. Is that because there are more pigs than corn?—No, because every labourer has a pig, and it enables him, if he gets a good price for it, to pay his rent for his conacre; he grows very little corn; he has not more than ten Irish perches generally.

14464. Does not he often keep more than one pig?—He does occasionally, but not generally; very rarely more than two.

14465. Does not he trust to his pig to pay the rent of his land?—Decidedly, to pay almost all his rent.

14466. Under a state of favourable prices, he may eat half his pig himself?—That hardly ever happens to a poor person; he must be a man remarkably well off, either having a small family, or be a very good labourer, to be enabled to eat half his pig himself.

14467. Supposing a man in that condition; that the usual price for a pig falls very much; one pig will not pay his fixed rent, and he is obliged to sell the two instead of one; that increases the export of pigs?—I do not know; the export of pigs has been as great when the price was high as when it was low. Pigs increase very fast; a sow may have three litters, probably 24 to 27 pigs in a year; when the price is high, more are reared; if the price is very low, they are not worth rearing; the higher the price of pork, the more pigs will be exported.

14468. The *O'Conor Don.*] Do not you think generally it was greater, for that when the price was high people were more disposed to feed them?—Decidedly; I consider that pigs and corn operate in quite reversed ratios.

14469. Mr. *Cayley.*] You have spoken of it as a fact, that the higher the price of corn the greater the export?—I do not say greater, but that they are not regulated the one by the other.

14470. Do you believe there was a greater export of pigs in 1816 and 1822?—I cannot tell the exports from the country; I only speak of what I saw in my neighbourhood.

14471. Were not those years years of great depression in price?—Yes, they were very great; 1816 and 1817 were wet years, as we called them, and very bad years, very late harvests.

14472. Has not the export increased?—Yes.

14473. Mr. *Miles.*] Has not the price acquired in the British market increased?—I conceive so.

E. S. Shawe, Esq.

10 May 1836.

14474. Mr. *Evans.*] You remember the Reform Bill; that did away with the 40 *s.* freeholders?—Perfectly.

14475. What has been the effect of that on the labouring population?—I think it has had very little effect on the labouring population; it has had an effect on the small farmers.

14476. Has it not converted the small farmers into labourers?—I think not; the small farmers are very bad labourers, except for themselves.

14477. *Chairman.*] Has there been much emigration of labourers from the county of Kildare to England?—Yes.

14478. What is the rate of wages for agricultural labour?—That depends on the plenty of fuel; in my neighbourhood it is very plentiful; the price of labour is 10 *d.* a day in summer, and 8 *d.* in winter; we also give some slight advantages to those under us, by giving them potato soil at a reasonable rate. In other parts of Kildare, immediately round Naas, the price is always 1 *s.* a day in summer and 10 *d.* a day in winter, fuel being very scarce.

14479. Is it the same in the county of Cork and King's County?—In King's County wages are lower, and in Cork they are even still lower; wages vary from 6 *d.* to 8 *d.* a day.

14480. Mr. *Heathcote.*] Are there any of what are called corn-rents in Ireland?—I never heard of them there.

14481. You stated that there are very rarely regulations for the cultivation of the soil in Ireland?—No; the only thing I have known is, that some tenants are bound not to break more than one acre in ten, or in a certain proportion.

14482. There are no regulations to prevent what is called conacre?—Very rarely.

14483. Is that the case generally in Ireland?—Yes.

14484. Do the tenants consider they may let in conacre?—Yes.

14485. The *O'Conor Don.*] Except in the case of large farms?—Yes.

14486. Mr. *Evans.*] Is not there a clause against letting?—Yes; but setting for a crop we do not consider letting at all; we consider that whoever pays the county rates is the tenant in possession.

14487. Mr. *Heathcote.*] It would not be called subletting to let the land for a season in conacre?—No

14488. Mr. *Miles.*] What labour do you employ on a farm of your description?—I have in the farm I live on about 260 English acres; I employ about 20 labourers the year round, about three or four boys, and about five girls, very generally.

14489. In farms of the same description as your own, is that average number usually employed?—I consider it is a great deal over the average, for I keep more for gardens and for improvements than others; the working farmers employ very little labour; it is almost all done by their sons, and a servant boy or two who are in the house.

14490. The labourers they do employ are turned off part of the year?—With the exception of one or two in the house.

14491. At what time of the year do they turn them off?—In point of fact, they do not turn them off, because they do not take them in; a common farmer of Kildare, farming about 60 English acres, has no more than himself, two sons and a servant boy very generally; he will merely employ extra labourers at the period he wants them, as, for instance, in harvest time, and in potato digging and drawing home corn; he does not employ them at any other time; therefore he does not turn them off; he employs them by the week, and generally feeds them, and pays them 8 *d.* a day and up to 1 *s.* a day: those people probably two or three months in the year cannot get any employment at all and they make out their living by cutting rushes or heath, or something of that kind, and forming a dunghill, from which they grow potatoes.

14492. What proportion of the farming labourers are out of employ in the county of Kildare any great portion of the year?—I should think full one-fourth.

14493. What proportion of the year?—Certainly four months in the year.

14494. You stated that in your opinion cut bog pays for cultivation?—Yes.

14495. What depth of original surface is first cut out?—It is a very uneven surface; the shallower the bog, the more easily worked; I have known it 22 or 23 feet deep; it will be sometimes only six feet deep: bogs generally are 13 to 15 feet deep on the average, the red bogs; a great many a great deal more; then there is more difficulty.

14496. The nearer you arrive at the substratum, the easier the removal?—Decidedly.

14497. *Chairman.*] You have spoken of the condition of the tenants and peasantry in Ireland; what is the general condition of the landed proprietors; are they much encumbered?—I imagine almost all encumbered.

14498. Are they in a state to submit to a considerable reduction of rent, or any additional charges on their property?—I think they are not in a state to submit to additional charges; they are enabled to live on the rents they receive, and, generally speaking, they act with great kindness towards their tenants; I think they are not in a state to submit to additional charges.

14499. Is there much land on sale?—There have been great quantities in the market, and still advancing in price.

14500. Do you attribute the distresses of the farmers and their labourers in any degree to the distressed state of the proprietors?—I do not; with the exception of what are called the dressed lands, I do not think the residence of proprietors makes the slightest difference; it does as to labourers employed on the dressed lands. About a domain, where the family reside, there will be, on the average, 30 or 40 men employed; all those labourers are almost all out of employment. The farmers do not employ the labourers in proportion to the proprietors or country gentlemen; that class of labourers are the only people in the country who suffer by it.

14501. Were not those incumbrances incurred during the war?—In a great measure, I conceive, they arise from the law of primogeniture making provision for younger children; sons calling for their provision, daughters calling for their portions, which are not paid.

14502. Have you had a great number of provincial banks established of late in Ireland?—A vast number.

14503. What do you consider will be the effect of the increased accommodation they afford?—I dread it very much; instead of being of service, I consider they will be in the end injurious.

14504. Explain why?—If they let the farmers get discounts, I have a dread of it. I have always allowed the tenants full time for making up their money; I never asked them to pay their rents till about January, that they may have time to bring their produce to market, sow seed, and plant potatoes.

14505. Giving them how much time?—From May until January to pay the May rents. If I found that a farmer was in the habit of going to the banker and raising money on bills, I should think that man was decidedly going to ruin, and should not allow him to go into arrear, but should keep a very tight hand upon him.

14506. Mr. *Evans.*] That is because the Irish tenant has very little capital or stock in hand?—Very little.

14507. Sir *Charles Burrell.*] If he borrowed money on certain stock, holding large stock which he did not wish to sell off at the time, should you feel the same objection?—No; it is a customary thing in some parts for the tenants to sell their corn on what is called the rise; the tenants in those cases will thrash immediately after reaping the corn, it being then a great deal heavier, making a difference of a seventh or eighth in weight; then they deliver it on an agreement to get the price going for such corn at the time I go to receive. When I see that there is a likelihood of a further rise, I take the tenant's bill, or the miller's, thereby allowing him a further time; but if I find him looking for assistance elsewhere, I should have a great suspicion of him.

14508. Mr. *Evans.*] Would you recommend any measure for the improvement of the state of the tenantry in Ireland?—I think the measure most conducive to the benefit of the tenantry would be a general drainage; draining the dead-going rivers and taking up the obstructions, whether weirs or mill-dams; I think that would bring the bogs into cultivation in a proper way, by taking off the surplus water.

Mr. *Archibald M'Dougal*, called in; and Examined.

14509. *Chairman.*] WHERE do you reside?—At Cessford, in Roxburghshire, on the estates of the Duke of Roxburgh.

14510. Are you an extensive farmer in that county?—My farm is 2,000 acres.

Mr. A. M'Dougal.

10 May 1836.

14511. Are you at all employed as an agent to manage other estates?—No, but I act as trustee on other farms besides.

14512. Are you well acquainted with the state of agriculture in that county in Scotland?—From the extent of my business I ought to be well acquainted with it; I think I am; and I manage a farm of 1,200 acres under the Duke of Roxburgh, for the widow of my late brother, or as trustee for the creditors.

14513. What is the condition of the tenantry in that part of Roxburgh?—I think they are just in as comfortable circumstances as they were ever known to be.

14514. Have great improvements been going on in that part of the county?—At this moment I never saw it carried on with more spirit; some years ago there was rather a kind of laxity, but at this moment it is in a very spirited state indeed.

14515. Are those improvements carried on at the expense of the landlord or the tenant?—Sometimes the landlord assists, but it is generally at the expense of the tenant; the landlord usually assists in building, enclosing and draining.

14516. Have the tenantry all of them leases?—The whole of them; there is no tenant without a lease.

14517. For 19 or 21 years?—That is the general time; but there are some leases granted for 14 or 16 years on different estates.

14518. Are they let at money rents or grain rents?—There are some grain rents, but they are generally money rents.

14519. Where a farm has been let on a money rent, has there been any considerable reduction in the rent these last few years?—I think that where farms have been in the market in the last two years, they have advanced in rent.

14520. What is the nature of the soil of your own farm?—It is very various; we have strong land, not much, but the greatest part of the county is fit for the production of turnip; some of it very rich; there is on my farm land of every variety of description, some very good and some not worth 2 *d.* an acre; it is almost impossible to describe the average.

14521. What is the nature of that land you refer to?—It was compounded of moor and waste land.

14522. Can you separate that?—Yes; in valuing a farm, we separate the waste from the valuable land, that we may form a more distinct value and fix a rent per acre upon it, which, amalgamated with the worst land, would make it look like a strange rent; the arable land extends to 1,500 acres, and I pay a rental of 1,400 *l.* for it.

14523. Is it Scotch or English acres?—English.

14524. Are there any local charges upon that land?—We have poor-rates and road-money.

14525. What do they amount to per acre?—It is very trifling; the whole poor-rates on that farm amount to about 16 *l.* a year my share; the landlord pays a half, and it is 32 *l.* altogether; but it varies according to the state of the poor and the number that require assistance.

14526. Is Roxburghshire a wheat-growing county?—We grow a considerable extent of wheat.

14527. Has there been more wheat grown these last 20 years than in former years?—I think not, I think it has decreased; the prices of wheat have not been equal to those of other grains, and we sow according to the returns we expect.

14528. What are the grains you have substituted for wheat?—Barley and oats.

14529. What is the course of cultivation upon that land?—We open up our ley with oats; turnip or plain fallowing is the succeeding year; barley or wheat the third; then sown with grass, and usually remains for two years in grass; but the more valuable lands are only allowed to remain one year in grass.

14530. When you plough up your ley, do you apply any manure?—My application of manure is entirely to the fallow or grain crop, the wheat and barley gets none unless after potatoes, which we consider a very scourging crop; and then we manure the land before sowing.

14531. What species of manure did you apply?—The farm-yard manure is first used, and bone dust has become extremely beneficial.

14532. Is the bone dust equally applicable to the clay soils?—No, it is only for the gravel or light soils.

14533. In that part of your farm that is heavy soil, have you done any draining?—I have done a great deal of draining, both on the clay and light soils.

14534. Your drains are stone drains?—Yes, all of them.

14535. Are they furrow drains?—No, they are taken from the springs; for on my farm they would be of very little use, the wet being mostly from springs; and if we do not catch these springs, draining will be no use at all.

14536. Do those drains carry off the surface water?—We can get it off without a great expense, and furrow-draining is not successful in those respects; in my barn-yard, which is pretty extensive, I have furrow-drained it all, without being much benefited, and there are 200 rods of drains in it.

14537. Sir *Charles Burrell.*] What kind of soil was that?—It was a moor, with a close retentive sub-soil, and the moor was exceedingly wet from the state of the sub-soil.

14538. Was it of a sandy nature when it got dry?—Yes.

14539. Mr. *Evans.*] What was the depth of the moor on the top?—It varied perhaps about nine inches, not more, till we came to the close sub-soil.

14540. *Chairman.*] What is the condition of your labouring population?—I think they are very comfortable; they are constantly employed, and the manner in which they are paid prevents their ever suffering distress, as they are paid principally in corn and at low market; as they make use of it in their family, they do not feel the effect of any change in the markets.

14541. What quantity of labour have you for every 100 acres?—I have 32 families upon my farm; every one of them produces two labourers at least, with all their children in regular employ during the summer season, in weeding the grain crops and cleansing the other fields, so that there are during that period upwards of 100 labourers employed regularly.

14542. How are they employed; in weeding grain crops?—The land has to be cleaned for putting in the green crops, the manure to be carted and spread upon it, and after that, when the turnip crop comes up, it is to be thinned and kept clean till the harvest comes on, when they are employed in the harvest labour.

14543. You manure often the potato crop?—Yes.

14544. How is the hoeing done?—By the horse and hand-hoe; they are all drilled.

14545. Sir *Charles Burrell.*] You always clean your potato crop?—Yes.

14546. The *O'Conor Don.*] Has property been much enhanced in value within the last few years in Roxburghshire?—I do not think it has; the value of property still remains much about the same, I think from 26 to 27 years' purchase.

14547. Have rents risen?—They go hand in hand; when the rent rises, of course the value of property rises, and of late years they have risen, but they did fall very considerably after the peace; the farm I occupy, at that time was rented at upwards of 2,000*l.* a year, it is now 1,400*l.*

14548. How long is it since there was a fall of the rent?—That depends upon the length of the lease. I held a farm subject to such a rent, and until the end of my lease I could not get a reduction of my rent, unless from the favour of the landlord, which I certainly did obtain.

14549. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] What average produce of wheat per acre would you get from your mixed soil?—It is a good crop if there are five of our bolls, about four quarters per acre; that is a very good crop of wheat.

14550. Would you not say that is a high average of produce?—Yes, that is a good produce.

14551. How many bushels per acre would you say is the average produce?—From 28 to 30 bushels, that is on good wheat lands, and there is only a proportion of the crop in wheat; but that I consider a good crop.

14552. What is the lowest price per bushel at which you think wheat could be generally grown in Scotland, with a fair rent and a remuneration, on land of the quality of which you are now speaking?—From 6*s.* 6*d.* to 7*s.* a bushel; I do not think we should have any difficulty, with the economical mode we are now adopting, to be paid at that price.

14553. You stated that some years back there was a large falling back in agriculture in Scotland; to what period do you refer?—I should say from 1820, for

Mr. *A. M'Dougal.*

10 May 1836.

the next eight or ten years there was a deficiency of employment, a want of spirit and a want of capital among farmers.

14554. Can you name the particular period at which that was most obvious?—No, I cannot charge my memory with that.

14555. You state that you are not aware that there has been a reduction of rent, generally speaking, for the last two years?—I think quite the reverse, I think that the farms that were let at money-rent have for the last two years advanced.

14556. Supposing there appeared a probability that the price of wheat would in future not range so high as 6*s.* 6*d.* a bushel, what proportion do you think the present rents, in the part of Scotland of which you are now speaking, must be reduced?—This year the average prices of wheat per bushel, at the time of striking the fiars prices, which is considered the proper time for valuing, were not anything like 6*s.* 6*d.*, they were not 5*s.*, and reduction ought to correspond with this.

14557. Could the present rents, in that part of Scotland of which you are speaking, be maintained at the price of 6*s.* a bushel?—I am perfectly certain they could, taking the fiars prices at the time as a criterion, for it is 10*s.* a boll, or nearly 10*s.* a boll above the fiars prices, which this year was about 4*s.* 8*d.* a bushel.

14558. Mr. *Heathcote.*] Have you found that lime, as applied to clay, is as efficacious as to other species of soil?—We consider lime the most efficacious manure for that soil of any we can apply.

14559. Is it not better in a soil where there are the remains of vegetable matter?—Yes; but we do not consider that a stiff soil can do without it, if it is to be perfectly reduced; the lime does not act as manure, but as a stimulus; and, with a slight application of stable-yard dung, the lime will have a most wonderful effect.

14560. By itself have you found it has as much effect upon a stiff retentive clay as on other soils?—We find it has a very good effect.

14561. Has there been a great increase of the produce of wheat in that part of the country?—I rather think not; the low price of wheat has caused us to curtail the sowing of it; I think there has been less grown in general, as the low price for the two last years has induced a smaller quantity to be sown.

14562. Sir *Charles Burrell.*] Do you consider it will be possible to carry on the cultivation of clay soils without lime?—Utterly impossible.

14563. It would be impossible to get manure adequate to your wants, but for lime?—I do not see how we could get any other; even lime is at a great distance.

14564. The *O'Conor Don.*] Have you not found grazing pay you well in Scotland this year?—Yes, particularly these last two years.

14565. Both sheep and black cattle?—Yes.

14566. To what market do you send your stock?—The north of England; it goes principally to the Morpeth market, and from thence it is conveyed into the manufacturing districts; but we sell it principally at our own markets now; the Agricultural Association have established markets in the country, which has been the most beneficial thing they have done for us.

14567. In consequence of that you are saved the necessity of going to a distant market?—Yes, we sell to the dealers in our own market.

14568. Mr. *Evans.*] Do you grow much clover?—The regular rotation is that the fifth is in fallow; the crop afterwards is invariably grass seeds.

14569. Do you save the seed of your clover?—No, our climate will not admit of that.

14570. Do not you conceive it would be an advantage to the Scotch farmers to have the duty taken off clovers?—A very considerable advantage; indeed that is the only relief that I can see Government can give to the Scotch farmers.

14571. *Chairman.*] Can you suggest any other measure by which the Legislature can benefit the farmers?—I can only state one thing that has occurred to me,

me, that is the duty on clover, which is the only thing I can see that can benefit the Scotch farmer, in order that he may save something in the price of his clover, for we cannot grow it, and have to pay a heavy duty upon its importation.

14572. Do you purchase foreign clover, or English clover seed?—We prefer the English clover seed, because it stands the climate better the second year, but we are obliged to buy it at a higher price, because the foreign seed cannot come in without a high duty, and foreign seed would be very useful in some parts of England; it is a much prettier seed, though it does not continue more than one year without injury in our lands.

14573. What advantage would the taking off the duty be to you?—I do not say it would be much advantage; I sow 200 acres; the reduction might save me 5 *s.* an acre, about 50 *l.* a year; it is the only article in which the Government can interfere to benefit us.

14574. How do you explain that it would save you 5 *s.* an acre?—It costs me 10 *s.* an acre at present; reduce the duty on the purchase, it will be 5 *s.* an acre.

14575. Mr. *Handley.*] Do you know what is the duty on foreign clover seed?—No, I do not; but I understand it enhances the price one-half.

14576. Mr. *Heathcote.*] Do you think that it would be a benefit to the English farmers to sell their clover seed cheaper than they do at present?—No, I do not say it would.

14577. Then it would be a benefit to you at the expense of another set of agriculturists?—Certainly.

14578. Mr. *Handley.*] What quantity do you sow on an acre?—From 10 to 12 pounds.

14579. What is the cost per pound?—There are different kinds, the kind we use is now about 9 *d.* a pound.

14580. Mr. *Evans.*] Is there much improvement made in the roads in your neighbourhood?—Immense improvements since I began business.

14581. Is it by turnpikes or parochial thoroughfares?—The turnpike roads are much in the same state, I think rather improved, but not so conspicuously as the cross-roads; those, however, are anything but under a good system of management.

14582. You prefer the paying toll for the repairing the cross-roads to parochial assessment?—It is impossible we can have turnpike roads through every part of the country; they are made on a great line, but the cross-roads are considered as a private matter altogether.

14583. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] Are you to be understood that those light lands generally on an average produce as much as 28 bushels an acre?—That was on good turnip soil; the inferior turnip soils are sown with oats or barley, but we sow the wheat always on the best we can procure upon the farm, and we think it a poor return if we have not 28 bushels an acre.

14584. Is this of the higher description of wheat land, or the wheat land generally?—I consider the wheat land generally.

14585. That would be maintained in cultivation at the price of 6 *s.* a bushel for wheat?—I have not a doubt that it would.

14586. The wheat lands of Scotland might be maintained at 6 *s.* a bushel, paying your present rent?—I am sure they might.

14587. Have you any particular period from whence you would date the rise of agriculture in Scotland?—I do not know exactly; the period when it took place was the introduction of clover and the drill husbandry, and a general improvement of Scotch agriculture, perhaps.

14588. How long is it since the introduction of drill husbandry?—I cannot charge my memory, it was long before I was in business; but the principal introduction of drill husbandry was by Mr. Dawson, of Roxburghshire; I think it must have been somewhere about 60 years ago.

Mercurii, 11° *die Maii*, 1836.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Shaw Lefevre.	Sir Charles Burrell.
The O'Conor Don.	The Marquis of Chandos.
Mr. Evans.	Mr. Heathcote.
Mr. Miles.	Mr. Denison.
Mr. Handley.	Mr. Young.
Mr. Cayley.	Mr. Wodehouse.
Mr. Loch.	Sir Robert Price.
Mr. Bhingam Baring.	

Mr. SHAW LEFEVRE, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr *R. Brassington.*

11 May 1836.

Mr. *Richard Brassington*, called in; and Examined.

14589. Mr. *Evans.*] WHAT is your profession?—Surveyor and valuer of land.

14590. Do you farm any land yourself?—I do; I farm about 120 Irish acres.

14591. That is about 184 English?—Yes.

14592. You have an extensive knowledge of the state of landed property, and of agriculture in Ireland?—I have had a good deal of experience the last 40 or 45 years.

14593. Have you travelled over a great part of Ireland professionally?—I have.

14594. Do you recollect the period of 1800?—Yes.

14595. Contrasting the present state with the state in 1800, would you say that it is improved?—That it is improved.

14596. Has it improved since 1832?—I would not undertake to say that there is any change one way or another; some articles have gone down, and some have got up; wheat has been an unprofitable crop to farmers these last two years, but oats, pork, butter, flax and barley have paid, and butter has paid well.

14597. Has wheat paid badly in consequence of a greater quantity being produced?—I would not undertake to say, but I rather think it is from want of demand.

14598. Do you consider that there is a greater breadth of land sown since 1833, or before it?—I have gone through a great extent of country the last month, and I think there is a great deal less wheat sown than last year; a great deal of the fallow ground has been turned to flax, particularly in the northern and western counties.

14599. Have rents been much lowered since the year 1819?—They are rather lower, but they fell a great deal from the conclusion of the war till 1819, and there is as great a desire for taking land, as at any period since the close of the war.

14600. Are rents now falling?—I think not, I think they are about stationary, and the value of the fee rising every day.

14601. What is the state of the tenantry in Ireland generally?—They are depressed a little now from the want of demand for wheat.

14602. Generally speaking, the last few years?—Both this year and last year; in fact the tenantry of this year have not been able to hold over the produce of the land, and they are compelled to sell at a very low rate of prices; the wheat had all got into the hands of the merchants and millers, the farmers not having capital to keep it over and pay their engagements.

14603. Has the number of middlemen or intermediate landlords increased or decreased in Ireland?—They are considerably diminished, that is within 40 or 50 years since the 40*s.* freeholders commenced; the landlords got very much attached to getting the lands into their own hands, and as fast as the leases fell, instead of leaving them in the hands of the middlemen, they have taken them into their own hands, and cut them up into small farms, granting freehold leases to increase their political interest, and in many cases allowed to subdivide again.

14604. But since doing away the 40*s.* freeholders, what do you consider has been

been the effect of that measure upon the farms?—I think a great number of the Irish proprietors would be very glad to get the land which they formerly subdivided into larger farms again, if they were able to accomplish it, but there are a great many difficulties in the way; they cannot get a small tenant out, although his lease is expired, without difficulty and danger to the peace of the country.

14605. Can you state what you consider the average produce of bushels per statute acre of wheat, barley and oats, taking the sack at 20 stone of wheat equivalent to five bushels?—It is easy to calculate that; I would say that the average produce of wheat in our county I take to be from eight barrels to nine the Irish acre, that is about five barrels the English acre.

14606. That is about 25 bushels to the English acre?—Yes; in former times we used to calculate seven barrels an acre as the average growth of wheat in Ireland, but the system is improved, and not so much impoverished land sown as formerly in Ireland.

14607. Mr. *Miles.*] What is the weight of your barrel?—Twenty stone of 14 pounds.

14608. What do you suppose the average rent of land in Ireland?—It is impossible to say; the arable land in Ireland I would take to fluctuate from 10*s.* to 3*l.* for the Irish acre. The best lands we have in Ireland, in Tipperary and Limerick, do not go beyond 3*l.* an acre.

14609. Do you consider that the remittances of money to England have increased or diminished?—They have increased, as so many more gentlemen have come to reside in England.

14610. Do you recollect Sir John Newport's measure of equalizing the corn trade between the two countries?—No, I do not understand what the principle of it was, but I believe the equalizing them was to have a free import, without duty, from one country to the other.

14611. What do you consider would be a remunerating price to the farmer per bushel, of wheat, barley and oats?—I would consider about 30*s.* a barrel for wheat, that would be about 54*s.* the quarter.

14612. Can you make any suggestions for the improvement of agriculture in Ireland?—The chief thing in my mind that we want is capital, and skill along with it, and if a little industry could be added.

14613. Would you recommend any particular measure?—I think agricultural schools decidedly would be the most beneficial, and well regulated farming societies, with premiums for improvers of the land.

14614. Do you consider the situation of the labourers and cottiers holding a few acres of ground, or renting con-acres, as improving or the reverse?—I do not see that there is any particular change in it; the con-acre system is as much followed in Ireland as ever it was, but they have got latterly more into the system, when they let con-acres, of burning the land for the purpose of producing potatoes, which is destructive to the land.

14615. Almost all the labouring classes in Ireland have more or less land, that they rent either in con-acre or small holdings?—Yes, there are some actual cottiers that have nothing except a garden or the grass of a cow upon a coarse pasturage mountain, that rent no land.

14616. There is but a small number of labourers who depend entirely upon the wages they get for their labour?—Those are mostly in the eastern quarter of the province of Leinster, where they are unattached to anybody, but leave their cabins and go where they like, though part of them are bound to a particular person from whom they hold their cabins.

14617. Do you consider it the interest of the landlords to grant leases, or that they would be generally beneficial, considering that there is little agricultural capital in the country, and that leases might be favourable to sub-letting?—My view of it is this: I think that where small farmers possess sufficient capital to enable them to under-drain, or to improve, or to enclose their land or build, leases would be encouraged; but where there is no capital to be had for those purposes, I think leases are only binding upon the landlord, and that the tenant feels himself at liberty to walk off when he pleases.

14618. Your opinion is, that what we want most in Ireland is agricultural capital?—Yes.

14619. Do you consider joint stock banks favourable to the agricultural interest?—They afford a facility. There is a bank lately established called the Agricultural Bank. They are quite in the habit, in the counties I have been in latterly, of

Mr. *R. Brassington.*

11 May 1836.

lending out money by discounting three months' bills, and that affords capital to the small farmers.

14620. Mr. *Miles.*] Of course they do not do that without some security?—No, they take the character of the different farmers in the country when they make claims; when the farmer comes into the town where the bank is kept, he gets somebody to vouch for him that he is a man of character.

14621. To be his surety in a certain way?—No, the man in the town generally will not do that, but he will get a neighbour who bears a good character to vouch for him.

14622. Mr. *Evans.*] Taking the whole of the tenantry throughout Ireland, what is the proportion of those who have any capital to those who have none whatever?—If you take the small tenants, I suppose there are 100 to one not possessing capital sufficient to manage their farms. You will scarcely see a populous village in any part of Ireland where you will not find, perhaps, out of the population, eight or ten families living all on one townland; you may find one or two of substance among them, who have stock and capital, and they are generally a class of men who become usurers, and lend to their neighbours money at usurous interest, often having a piece of land given up to them for a loan of 5 *l.* or 8 *l.* or 10 *l.* till they repay themselves back by the produce of it, but they charge an exorbitant interest.

14623. So that not above one out of twenty of the farmers can take advantage of the joint stock banks?—I think not.

14624. You were understood to state that middlemen are going out a good deal in Ireland. What effect has that had upon the condition of the poorer inhabitants?—Where landlords come to let at a moderate rent, it gives them a great relief from the burden that the others put upon them; for the middlemen, knowing so much more of the land, would always charge higher than the landlord, who was not so well acquainted with the land, or the agent, who will go twice in the year to receive the rent. If the middleman will take the rent in five or six payments, and partly in labour, the tenant will in that way pay more rent than he would to a man that came and took it once in a half year.

14625. When land is let by the landlord immediately to the cottiers, what is generally paid per acre?—According to the quality of the land.

14626. Would the cottier pay the landlord a higher rent than a tenant would?—Generally they do; if a man takes but two acres, it is like the difference between a wholesale man and a retail man.

14627. About what difference would be made in the rent of an acre of land between a large taker and a small taker?—A farm that a tenant would take at 30 *s.* an acre, a cottier would be charged 40 *s.* an acre, for taking two acres.

14628. If the cottier took it from a middleman by con-acre, what would he have to pay?—If it is rich fine land he will pay from 6 *l.* to 8 *l.* an acre for it, or according to the population of the neighbourhood, the wants of the people, or the price of provisions at the time.

14629. Does he merely get one crop out of the con-acre?—I have known con-acres in Ireland so high as 12 guineas an acre for a field of 20 acres, for six successive crops.

14630. The *O'Conor Don.*] In what part of Ireland?—In Limerick.

14631. Mr. *Evans.*] Has the same tenant kept it?—He kept it while he took the six crops out.

14632. The *O'Conor Don.*] Is it not usual for the tenant that had it this year to have it next year, as long as it is in con-acre?—In the case I speak of, there were about twenty acres in the field, and the out-going tenant, whose lease was expiring, set it for six successive crops to one man, at 12 guineas an acre the twenty acres.

14633. Was there an engagement made for the six years?—There was.

14634. Suppose a hundred acres let at 30 *s.* an acre to one that took the whole of the land, if the landlord set that to under-tenants, you think he would receive 40 *s.* an acre. But suppose the man who gives 30 *s.* an acre for the whole hundred acres were to set that land to under-tenants, he being a middleman, he would charge the tenants for divisions of the land more than 40 *s.*; less than 40 *s.* would not compensate him for the responsibility, if he be a solvent person?—Yes.

14635. Mr. *Miles.*] About what would he charge?—Probably 50 *s.*; a great deal would depend upon the quality of the land. Whether there is a great deal of rich land fit for con-acreing; for instance, in the case of the land I mentioned, my belief is, if that land was to be let, that twenty acres of land would to-morrow let

at

at 8*l.* an acre in tenures, and find many people glad to get it. Now the gross of that farm I suppose is set at about 50*s.* an acre on lease.

14636. *Chairman.*] Can you state what is the rent paid for a statute acre of land in Ireland of the same value as land let in England for which 30*s.* is paid?—Thirty Shillings for an English acre would be equivalent to 2*l.* 8*s.* 7*d.* for an Irish acre.

14637. Can you state what land of sufficiently good quality to let for 30*s.* an acre in England would fetch in Ireland?—That I cannot state.

14638. Mr. *Handley.*] A rent of 45*s* an acre is not an uncommon rent for small allotments?—No, it is not an uncommon rent for prime good land.

14639. *Chairman.*] What is the usual rent of the land upon which wheat and barley is grown in Ireland?—It is now fluctuating between 25*s.* and 40*s.*

14640. What are the other charges upon an acre of land in Ireland?—There is nothing more than the county charges and tithe.

14641. What do the county charges amount to?—In different counties they vary much. In the counties of Dublin and Meath they are something better than 1*s.* an acre every half year.

14642. Can you state what would be the acreable produce of wheat and barley upon land let for 25*s.* an acre?—It fluctuates very much, according to how often it is manured, but I take the average to be from eight to nine barrels of wheat an acre, that is five bushels to the English acre.

14643. What quantity of barley?—The general produce of barley we consider to be about 15 or 16 barrels, or 17 barrels of 16 stone to the barrel.

14644. The *O'Conor Don.*] Do you think that tillage is increasing in Ireland?—A great many of the extensive farmers are laying down to grass, but the small class of farmers are continuing in tillage.

14645. *Chairman.*] Has there been more or less corn grown in Ireland the last three years?—I think tillage has been upon the increase.

14646. Has there not been a greater quantity of land devoted to pasture?—Except among graziers, who found the labour expensive, and that they were not repaid by the produce of the tillage.

14647. Supposing a farmer of capital to take land in Ireland, would it answer his purpose best to grow corn upon it or to graze it?—A good deal would depend upon the skill or attention he paid to it. I think a skilful farmer would make more by tillage; the best way of making money by land is to have a variety, to have a certain proportion under cattle producing milk and making butter, and another proportion under tillage and various crops; one year wheat will tell, and another year oats will tell well.

14648. In the best managed farms you are acquainted with in Ireland, what proportion does the land under tillage bear to the land under pasture?—A great deal depends on the facility a man has of obtaining manure; if he is a man that feeds cattle, and makes a great deal of manure, he will increase the tillage, but, taking the farmers in general, I think they may till about a third part, farmers that have both capital and judgment.

14649. The *O'Conor Don.*] In what part of Ireland should you say that is the case?—Through the province of Leinster, the best improved, and parts of the county of Cork, about Fermoy, where they till with great judgment compared with other parts.

16650. *Chairman.*] Can you state, taking any farm with which you are acquainted, what amount farmers spend in a year in labour?—I could not.

14651. You do not know how many labourers are employed to the hundred acres?—I should take it that the expenditure upon a well regulated farm of 100 acres would come to from 3*l.* to 4*l.* a week.

14652. The *O'Conor Don.*] At how much a day?—At 1*s.* a day to labourers.

14653. Is that the rate of wages paid in Leinster in general?—It is in general through the counties of Meath and Dublin, and those counties contiguous to Dublin, and the eastern parts of Leinster.

14654. Is not that rather a higher rate of wages than general in Ireland?—No doubt it is. In the west of Leinster, towards the county of Longford, the people have not either that permanent employment or the same wages.

14655. *Chairman.*] What is the rate of wages per day in Leinster?—One shilling a day, without food or any privileges. In some places the farmers give the grass of a cow, they give a cabin and other things, and they set them a

Mr. R. Brassington.

11 May 1836.

potato ground at a reasonable rate; there the wages of course are lower in consequence of having those privileges.

14656. Do not the smaller farms of Ireland vary from 20 to 40 acres?—Where there is great subdivision of land you will find men that have not more than three, four or five acres of arable land; they have perhaps extensive tracts of grazing land added to it, often in common to a number of tenants.

14657. It was stated by a witness yesterday that in the county of Cork the average size of the farms is from 30 to 40 acres?—A great portion of the county of Cork is now held in very extensive farms. There are seven or eight or ten people have a rundale, that is, fields divided up, and according to the quality of those fields every man possessing an interest in the lease gets a proportion of each field. Suppose there were six people, one of them gets a strip running up from end to end of the ground; another man adjoining will get another strip, and then, if the field changes much in its quality, the man that got the first gets another. It is the most ruinous system of letting that can be conceived.

14658. Are you acquainted with the common field system of England?—No.

14659. Are those portions of land divided by hedges?—No; nothing but a little grass lying between them, just to mark them.

14660. Then it is impossible to cultivate upon them anything that is to be fed off by stock. Scarcely anything but noxious weeds grow upon these divisions, which seed spread over the other lots?—No, it is impossible; in fact there is scarcely any grass grown upon it. It is a ruinous system.

14661. What is usually grown upon land which is held upon that system?—It is chiefly oats and potatoes. I do not think I ever saw wheat upon ground so circumstanced; in fact they could not protect the crop in the winter.

14662. Mr. *Handley.*] What is the course; is it potatoes and oats?—Upon the strip that a man has for one year, he will take a crop of potatoes and his neighbour has oats.

14663. What is the usual application of that crop; is it sent to market or to a distillery?—It goes to the market; many people buy it and put it into store, and send it to Dublin.

14664. What proportion of the oats grown in Ireland do you consider go through the still?—I could not form the slightest idea, but the consumption of oats in distilleries is tremendous.

14665. The *O'Conor Don.*] What proportion comes to England?—I could not say.

14666. Mr. *Cayley.*] Have you ever seen the best husbandry in Scotland or in England?—No, never.

14667. You cannot compare what you conceive to be the best cultivation of Ireland with the best husbandry in Scotland or England?—No.

14668. What do you conceive to be the best cultivated district in Ireland?—I think decidedly the province of Leinster. We have two men settled in the King's county who are a very valuable example to the country, men of the name of Rate, two Scotchmen, who came over thirty or forty years ago, and who have improved the whole district of country all round them.

14669. You can speak as to the district of Leinster, from your own personal observation?—Yes.

14670. You live in Dublin?—I do.

14671. Are you a practical farmer?—I am.

14672. Have you farmed to a considerable extent?—No; about 180 English acres.

14673. Do you farm now?—I do; but not so much in the tillage way as I did. I had it all under tillage many years ago.

14674. What induced you to change your mode of cultivation?—I found the labour was too expensive, and I am professionally employed in valuing and surveying land, and I go to every part of Ireland at stated periods.

14675. You found the labour too expensive compared with the prices you got for the produce?—Yes; upon my farm I produced mangel wurzel for the food of cattle. I kept about 40 head of cattle in Dublin, and I brought the produce of the farm to feed them. My farm was seven miles from Dublin.

14676. What is the usual size of the farms in your district of Ireland?—From 50 to 150 acres.

14677. Then you reckon 150 acres a good farm?—Yes.

14678. Is that occupied by tenants who sow it with seeds and turnips, as the

the English and Scotch farmers do?—In some cases; but I think, taking the disposition of those farmers in Ireland generally, men of capital are not fond of embarking in tillage at all; they are fonder of an easier mode, just stocking the land, and getting what they can out.

14679. What do you think it would take to stock a good farm and to commence upon it; how much per acre would you think sufficient capital?—I think a man should have, at least, for an hundred acres, upon commencing, 500 *l.*, but that, in a great degree, would depend upon the condition in which he got the land. If he got rich land in a high state of improvement, of course it would take less.

14680. You have stated what you think would be proper; what do you think is the general custom; how much capital per acre would a man take in going upon a farm?—I do not suppose they take or have anything like what I have described.

14681. Do you think they they take 2 *l.* an acre?—A man could not well commence farming and supply the necessary implements of agriculture, horses, and stock without more than that.

14682. You think they must have more than 2 *l.* an acre?—I think they do generally; I do not think it practicable to begin unless they have more than that.

14683. Will you state how they set about to cultivate the land; what is the course of crops?—It depends upon the state in which they get the land.

14684. Suppose they go upon a farm of 150 acres, 50 acres of which is arable and 100 acres of grass, supposing the arable to be in a decent state of cultivation, how would they cultivate those 50 acres?—A man getting a farm in that sort of state would put wheat into every part of it that was fit to receive wheat, and barley or oats into the remainder of it, or, if possessed of manure, a potato crop.

14685. Did you ever hear of a course of husbandry in England, a four-shift or a five-shift?—Yes, I did; we have nothing whatever of that sort in Ireland.

14686. Mr. *Evans.*] Are there not a great number of Scotch stewards in Ireland?—There are.

14687. Do they not follow the Scotch system?—There are gentlemen that do, but there are no Scotchmen connected with the generality of the farmers or agriculturists.

14688. Mr. *Cayley.*] Did you ever see a drill in Ireland?—Very often.

14689. Is drilling much used in Ireland?—Yes.

14690. Is the turnip husbandry very much in vogue?—I do not think it is so much in vogue as it ought to be, there are a great many turnips grown in Ireland, but mostly in gentlemen's farms.

14691. How do they sow them, in broad cast or in drills?—In drills.

14692. Do they make it part of the course of their cultivation to grow turnips instead of fallow; to succeed the turnips by oats—after oats to grow seeds, and after seeds to grow wheat?—No, after a grain crop of any kind, either wheat, oats or barley, it is usually followed by another white crop and then manured for potatoes, turnips or mangel wurzel.

14693. Do they ever take any trouble in weeding their corn crops?—Yes, they do.

14694. Do they expend much labour in cleaning the land?—Yes, those that grow green crops of any kind drill them.

14695. Do they expend anything in weeding their corn crops?—They do.

14696. Do they sow seeds, such as clover seeds?—Yes, when they are laying down the land for grass.

14697. Is that for permanent pasture?—Some people sow for two or three crops, rye, grass and clover.

14698. Is that the usual course?—It is; but it is very much confined to gentlemen.

14699. Do they apply much lime?—In some counties they do a great deal.

14700. Do they lay out anything in draining?—They do; through Leinster they drain a great deal.

14701. Does the farmer take great pains with his ditches?—I cannot say that the generality of farmers do; but some gentlemen farmers do.

14702. Do they take any pains with their fences?—They make some very good enclosures; thorn, quicks and furze frequently.

14703. Are those gentlemen farmers or common farmers that take pains with their hedges?—Many of the common farmers make very good fences.

14704. What sort of state are their farm buildings in?—Some are tolerably fair, mostly thatched buildings.

Mr. *R. Brassington.*

11 May 1836.

14705. Did you ever see any farm-houses in England?—Yes.

14706. Are they as good as the farm-houses in England?—No, they are not generally; but they have some tolerably good farm-houses.

14707. You say they grow turnips; do they ever apply any extra manure to the growth of turnips, such as bone or rape dust?—No; I never knew bones or rape dust used in Ireland, but they use animal manure.

14708. You say they have grown less corn lately; what made them grow less corn?—The bad prices.

14709. Does it come within your knowledge, whether there is a probability of the increase or the decrease of the export of wheat from Ireland?—I could form no notion, but it depends upon the English market. Liverpool governs us, and if encouraged, tillage will increase, and the labourer have employment.

14710. Are you aware whether the export to Liverpool has increased or diminished the last three years?—I think it has increased; I have no doubt of it, although the prices are low.

14711. If the returns were to show it otherwise, you would change your opinion?—I would; but I know there has been a great demand in the Dublin market and in the markets upon the eastern coast of Ireland for corn.

14712. Can you speak of any other part of Ireland besides Leinster?—Yes; I know Ireland altogether very well.

14713. Generally speaking, how far is the farmer from the market where he can sell his corn?—The farmers in the province of Connaught have Sligo market, they have Ballyna market, they have Galway market and Westport, and they have local markets.

14714. Those are markets of factors to take up the corn for export?—Yes.

14715. You spoke of the con-acre system; has the con-acre system increased a good deal of late years?—Naturally as the population of the country has increased the demand for con-acres has increased.

14716. What is the difference in the value of land before it is broken up into the con-acre system and after, that is, supposing a farmer is paying 30 *s.* an acre for good grass land, how much more would he pay for it to be allowed to prosecute the con-acre system?—He will get for a con-acre perhaps from 6 *l.* to 8 *l.* an acre for several years, and many people make their rent by breaking up the land. Suppose a man has 100 acres of land at 30 *s.* an acre, if he can con-acre 12 or 15 acres of that land at 12 *l.* an acre, that pays a large proportion of the rent of the whole farm.

14717. Then if the landlord, in consequence of the pressure of the times, feels himself called upon to reduce the rent of a farm for which he is receiving 150 *l.* a year, if he can give the tenant the privilege of prosecuting the con-acre system, so that he can con-acre 8 or 12 acres, that may enable the landlord to keep up the same rent that he had before?—Exactly so, but it would not be a prudent act of the landlord to permit it.

14718. The *O'Conor Don.*] Would not it depend on the length of the lease?—I would not say that it would altogether; I have known men that held land upon a lease expiring in five or six years, frequently lay out 5 *l.* or 6 *l.* an acre upon it in under-draining it; having no prospect of ever obtaining a lease afterwards, they do it upon the principle that they could not crop the land or con-acre the land without taking the water out of it, and then the moment they have done that, they will get their 8 *l.* or 9 *l.* an acre for a succession of crops.

14719. Mr. *Cayley.*] The question applied to those tenants that could not break up the land under the con-acre system, provided the lease was existing; now does the landlord ever, in consequence of the low rate of prices and the pressure of the times, allow a tenant who is under lease to break up the land under the con-acre system?—No, he would rather be disposed to restrain him, but we have not those restrictive clauses in the leases in Ireland, and even where they are introduced very frequently they are not attended to, and the con-acre system goes on, and the landlord knows nothing about it.

14720. You have stated that you did not think it a prudent course for a landlord to pursue to allow it, but whether prudent or not, is it not a fact that landlords do allow it to their tenants, and that it does enable the tenants to pay a larger rent than they would otherwise pay?—The great bulk of the con-acres of Ireland is produced from the system of burning the land, which no doubt destroys the land for ever, and yet landlords quietly look on and see it done.

14721. Has this con-acre system been going on increasing the last 20 or 25 years?—No doubt, as the population of the country has increased.

14722. If it be of advantage to the tenant, it enables the tenant to pay a higher rent to the landlord?—Temporarily it does.

14723. Can you state what the comparative condition of the farmer and the labourer is now, compared with what it was in the time of the war?—The farmer of course was better off during the war; though his rent was higher, still there was such a facility of making the rent. I remember corn from 50 *s.* to 4 *l.* a barrel.

14724. Were the labourers well employed then?—They were.

14725. And they were better off than they are now?—No doubt of it, tillage was so great that every labourer was in full employment.

14726. The war ceased in 1815, that is about 20 years ago; now taking the condition of the labourer about 15 years ago, what is the condition of the labourer now compared with what it was then?—I think employment has become less every day; as the quantity of tillage by the extensive landholder has decreased, labour of course has decreased along with it; but still there is a great deal of tillage among the small farmers, who, generally with their own families, work the land without hired labourers; they can never leave off; they have not land fit for stock, and they have not capital to stock it.

14727. The *O'Conor Don.*] Do not you think there is more tillage in Ireland now than during the war?—I do not think there is so large a quantity of land tilled to afford employment to the labourer, but more generally grown by small farmers from the subdivision of the farms.

14728. Mr. *Cayley.*] How do you account for the increase of corn which you say has come to the English market, if there is less tillage now than during the war?—Among the lower classes of the people I think the tillage has not decreased, but amongst the higher classes.

14729. The *O'Conor Don.*] Taking the whole of Ireland, is not there more tillage now than during the war?—I do not know but there may be as much.

14730. Mr. *Cayley.*] Do you think the tenants have been pressed in their circumstances very much the last 15 years?—I think they have.

14731. Have the landlords exacted exorbitant rents, compared with the prices of produce?—I do not think they have; I mean the owners in fee; but it is when they come to traffic among each other, that they come to deal in that con-acre system; it is that which is destructive to the poor.

14732. Does not the middleman generally intervene between the landlord and the occupying tenant?—Wherever there are middlemen, but they are very rare now. They have been gradually declining the last 40 years. There are a species of middlemen that held perpetuity leases under head landlords, but they do not generally come under that name.

14733. It was stated by a witness to the Committee in 1833, that the tenantry of Ireland were extremely pressed by the exorbitant rents of the landlords, and it was his opinion that the tenantry of Ireland would be very much improved if there was an entirely new race of landlords. Is it your opinion that that was a correct statement?—I do not think it was. I think the landlords in Ireland generally are very lenient to their tenants, and moderate in their demands for rent.

14734. You spoke about the accommodation to the farmers from the banks. Has not there been a great increase of accommodation of late years from the banks?—There has within the last two or three years.

14735. Has not a bank been introduced called the Agricultural Loan Bank?—There has.

14736. Has not that tended very much to facilitate accommodation to the farmers?—No doubt it has.

14737. Do you think it has had a tendency to raise prices in Ireland?—I would not undertake to say that it has done so as yet.

14738. Is not there an improvement among the farmers in Ireland the last 18 months?—To me it is not visible; but those banks have afforded a great facility within the last few months to many to hold over their produce. I came from Sligo the other day, and I was talking to the agent of the Agricultural Bank there, and he said that the first instalment of the bills that had been taken of the farmers in the county was just coming due, and he said there was scarcely an instance of a failure in the payment of any of them.

14739. Have you seen any decided improvement in the state of the agricultu-

Mr. *R. Brassington.*

11 May 1836.

rists in Ireland since the institution of the Agricultural Loan Bank?—No; it has not had time to operate.

14740. Do you remember the time when there was a greater facility of obtaining accommodation in Ireland?—I do remember the time when there was a great deal too much of it, and when they all broke and destroyed the country.

14741. When was that?—I think about 1825.

14742. Do you remember the establishment of the Provincial Bank of Ireland?—I do.

14743. Do you consider that an advantage to the agriculturists of Ireland?—Not a doubt of it. I think the agriculturists of Ireland are so much in want of capital, that any system of banking that would afford them that without the risk of the bank failing, is an advantage.

14744. The Provincial Bank of Ireland has been of that nature?—It has, and the public have great confidence in it.

14745. It has a great number of branches?—It has, and there is not a man in the country that does not gladly lodge his money in it.

14746. Do you remember what the rate of interest was in Ireland before the establishment of the Provincial Bank?—Yes; the rate of discount of all the private banks of Dublin was six per cent., except the Bank of Ireland, which was five. The Bank of Ireland is now four.

14747. Did the establishment of the Provincial Bank lower the rate of interest from six to four per cent.?—I cannot say that that bank did it; but it induced the Bank of Ireland to spread branches of their bank almost to every town in Ireland. Wherever the Provincial Bank set up a bank, the Bank of Ireland set up another.

14748. Do you remember when the rate of interest in Ireland was eight or nine per cent?—I never heard of it.

14749. Do you remember that immediately after the establishment of the Provincial Bank there was a great fall in the rate of interest?—No; we had a very high rate of exchange in transmitting money from Ireland. I remember when it was a common thing in remitting money 14, 15, and 16 per cent. upon it, instead of the regular exchange.

14750. Speaking of the generality of farmers of your district, do you think that they are as rich a body of men as they were 15 years ago?—No.

14751. Then they have been working the last 15 years for nothing?—No, they have been eating and drinking; the farmers got into an expensive mode of living during the war that they have not been able to keep up.

14752. The *O'Conor Don.*] Do you think they are in a worse condition now than they were 10 years ago?—I do not think they are.

14753. Do you think they are worse or better than they were six years ago?—I do not think there is much change.

14754. Mr. *Evans.*] Would not your observation respecting the expensive style of living apply to the landlords as well as to the tenants?—Just as much.

14755. When the rents were raised so high during the war, the charges upon the property were made in proportion to the nominal rent?—No doubt.

14756. And when the rents have been diminished the charge has not been diminished, and that presses severely upon the landlord?—Very severely.

14757. What do you consider to be the superiority of the present system of banking in Ireland, over what it was 20 years ago?—At that time they were all banks of a private character, and a great number of those, such as the Newport Bank in Waterford, and all the banks in Limerick nearly broke.

14758. Do you consider that the present joint stock banks are based upon a much surer foundation than those banks were?—I cannot speak from my own knowledge as to their foundation, but they are held in great repute.

14759. Would you wish for an augmentation in the number of banks?—I cannot say; we have a vast many of them now established, two or three in every respectable town in Ireland.

14760. You stated that the great want of Ireland was the want of capital. Do not you think it is a dangerous thing when farmers have no capital, to give them too great a facility of borrowing money?—I do not know, but any thing that will give them a facility of holding over their crops for better prices is a benefit. For instance, this season, suppose a demand comes upon the farmer for the payment of rent, which is not an unusual thing, it forces the farmer into the market with his cattle when they are not got into condition.

Mr. R. Brassington.

11 May 1830.

14761. What do you consider to be the effect of the present protecting duty on corn?—So far as I can form an opinion upon it, my idea is that anything that keeps up the price of agricultural produce to a reasonable extent must benefit Ireland, because we have no other resource to give employment to our extensive labouring population.

14762. Do you prefer the sliding scale to a fixed duty?—I do not know, I am not sufficiently acquainted with it.

14763. The *O'Conor Don.*] You were asked what amount of capital would be necessary for farming a certain quantity of land. A man that holds 100 acres of land in Ireland has he not the most of it in grazing?—Yes.

14764. How many head of cattle ought he to have upon that land, to graze it with advantage?—It depends upon the quality of the land. There is grazing land in Ireland that will graze a beast to every acre.

14765. How much a head should he give for the cattle?—A great deal depends upon the description of cattle that the land is fit for; if it is fit for a superior class of heavy cattle they will cost from 8*l.* to 10*l.* a piece or more; other graziers in Ireland will feed a small description of poor cattle that will not cost more than from 50*s.* to 5*l.*

14766. Sir *Charles Burrell.*] What is the general price of what are called the Kerry cattle?—You will get them from 30*s.* to two guineas.

14767. At what age?—At three years old; some of them in calf and some bullocks.

14768. *Chairman.*] Has there been much improvement in the breed of cattle of late years in Ireland?—Yes; they have imported a great deal of English and Scotch and Dutch cows. The Ayrshire are very common in Ireland.

14769. Are the principal farmers in Ireland graziers?—The most wealthy of the farmers; very few men of large properties are embarked in tillage to any extent.

14770. Mr. *Handley.*] Is the growth of flax upon the increase in Ireland?—It is confined very much to the north and the north-west of Ireland, but it is greatly increased. It has borne a very good price the last two or three or four years.

14771. Do you think that if capital were to flow into Ireland, much land would be applied to the growth of flax?—We have land in every part of Ireland suited to flax, and as the demand increased the growth of it would increase in proportion.

14772. Have you had any experience in the reclamation of bog lands?—I cannot say that it has been tried except exhausted cut out bogs, but inquiries have been directed to see how far it is possible to carry on cultivation upon the surface of deep bogs, what are called the large flow bogs in Ireland, which is a soft bog with a quantity of water under it. An inquiry has been directed, how far it is possible upon that to create an artificial surface fit for cultivation or fit for pasturage.

14773. Are you aware of any attempts which have been successful?—I cannot say that I am. The general opinion is, that with regard to the large flow bogs, that you can reclaim the bog and create an artificial surface upon it, though the water is still floating under it. My opinion is that it is impracticable—that in order to make it fit for cultivation, you must tap it, and get the water from below it; that as long as it is floating upon the water, it is incapable of cultivation.

14774. Is it not the case that most of the bogs in Ireland are capable of being laid dry?—I am sure that they are, but some of them at great expense. I think the bogs generally are above the level of the adjacent rivers, and of course if you tap them and open a communication with those rivers, the bog will subside.

14775. Has emigration taken place to any extent from Ireland?—There is a good deal, especially from the north, and at this moment there is a great system of emigration now commenced from the province of Connaught. I saw in parts of the county of Roscommon, whole families coming off for Dublin, getting over to Manchester. It appears that there is a great demand for the labour of children at Manchester now.

14776. If capital were introduced into Ireland, might not the surplus population be advantageously employed in the reclamation of waste lands?—I think that if capital were introduced into Ireland to reclaim the waste lands, there is employment in abundance for every soul we have in Ireland for years to come.

14777. The *O'Conor Don.*] Which do you think would be most profitable, to expend capital in reclaiming waste land, or in cultivating what is already reclaimed?—I would first improve what is already in cultivation.

Mr. *R. Brassington.*

11 May 1836.

14778. Are you aware whether those who are emigrating are of any particular religion?—I think not.

14779. You state that they are emigrating from Connaught; are not the majority in Connaught Roman-catholics?—No doubt.

14780. Mr. *Heathcote.*] What is the price of the freight of a beast from Ireland to England?—I do not know.

14781. There has lately taken place a considerable increase in the export of flour from Ireland to England; can you explain that in any way?—I do not know, unless it is owing to the multiplication of flour mills in Ireland; there is a great increase in flour mills, and I understand from people that have been connected with them, that it is attended with a great profit, and people of course have embarked in it.

14782. The *O'Conor Don.*] Are they upon a very extensive scale?—Yes.

14783. Mr. *Handley.*] Has not that been augmented by the increased facility of transport by means of steam?—I am satisfied that it is.

14784. Sir *Charles Burrell.*] Can you state the average amount of capital that would be required to stock an average farm of any given number of acres with cattle?—Upon rich grass land, I have known many graziers who prefer putting upon that rich land, where there is rich succulent soft grass, an inferior kind of cattle; some graziers are very fond of introducing an old description of cattle, perhaps a cow with scarcely a tooth in her head, that he would buy for 50*s.* or 3*l.* and that cow will get fat upon that land, that would starve upon other land; perhaps she will fatten to five cwt. and that cow will bring 9*l.* or 10*l.* There are many other graziers who give 8*l.* or 10*l.* a head for cattle to put upon the same description of land, and perhaps would make 3*l.* or 4*l.* a head upon them, so that it depends entirely upon the skill and the opinion of the man that stocks the land. They will put different kinds of cattle upon the same description of land.

14785. Mr. *Evans.*] Do the graziers that go to fairs to buy cattle pay ready money, or do they draw bills upon their salemasters?—Those that go to the large markets at Ballinasloe draw bills upon the salemasters.

14786. By that means it is a fictitious capital they are dealing on?—Yes, but the men of property in Connaught that have the sale of the cattle, know the character of the man that goes.

Mr. *Joseph Freeland*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *J. Freeland.*

14787. *Chairman.*] WHERE do you reside?—In Sussex, seven miles south-west of Chichester.

14788. Are you a farmer?—Yes.

14789. Is that your sole occupation?—It is at present.

14790. To what extent do you farm?—Between 3 and 400 acres.

14791. What is the quality of the land?—Chiefly to grow wheat and oats.

14792. Is it a clay land?—No, it is chiefly a strong loam.

14793. Is it wet or dry?—Rather wet before it was drained.

14794. You drained it, did you?—Yes.

14795. How long ago?—Within seven years.

14796. Was that at your own expense, or at the expense of the landlord?—It was my own expense.

14797. With tiles?—Some with tiles and other with turf, and other with sea gravel.

14798. What is your course of crops?—It is a rotation of six—turnips, oats, clover, wheat, tares, or peas and beans, and then wheat.

14799. Have you been farming that land to a profit the last three years?—No, to a very considerable loss.

14800. To what do you attribute that loss?—I attribute it chiefly to the alteration in the value of money, but not so much the last three years.

14801. Do you rent your land, or is it your own property?—I rent it.

14802. What rent do you pay for it?—About a guinea an acre.

14803. Is it upon a lease?—Yes, I took it about eight years ago.

14804. Has there been any reduction of rent since that?—No.

14805. What was the average price of wheat when you took your farm?—The calculation was 58*s.* a quarter.

14806. You settled your rent with reference to the then value of wheat?—Yes.

14807. Has there been any reduction of rent since?—None at all.

14808. Do you grow barley?—A little.

14809. Have the prices of other crops as well as wheat been reduced within these few years?—No, the other prices have not been reduced in proportion, but the crops of other things have been very bad, generally every thing except wheat.

14810. Have the expenses of cultivating your farm diminished the last three years?—Yes, but not in proportion.

14811. What is the amount of the poor rate?—The poor rate is likely to be reduced about one-third, I believe more where it has been badly managed.

14812. Are the county rates heavy?—I do not think they are particularly heavy.

14813. Has there been any reduction in labourers' wages?—Yes; I believe it was 12*s.*, now it is reduced to 9*s.* and 10*s.*

14814. Supposing your rent was reduced, and there is the reduction you anticipate from the new Poor Law, the labourers' wages being reduced, do not you think the expenses of your farm would be sufficiently lowered to enable you to cultivate the land at present prices with wheat at 50*s.* a quarter, barley at 30*s.* and oats at 20*s.* a quarter?—The rents must be greatly reduced. I think if the price was reduced to 40*s.* rent would be reduced from 400*l.* to 250*l.* for land and tithes, supposing every thing fell in proportion.

14815. Has there been any great decline in the price of barley and oats since you took your farm?—I think not very great upon the whole, it is chiefly in wheat.

14816. Then if wheat should get up to the average of 58*s.* a quarter, at which you took your farm, you would be doing as well as ever?—Fifty-eight shillings; I consider 56*s.* to be the minimum, and that would not pay ten per cent.

14817. Are you acquainted with the state of the farmers in the western part of Sussex?—I am.

14818. Has their condition improved or not within the last three years?—Quite the contrary; they say they have been losing their rent the two or three years past, and I believe it.

14819. Has there been any reduction of rent?—I do not know, I suppose not.

14820. What is the condition of the labourers?—I think the labourers are not better off now than they were, because evere thing is a little higher. When wheat was at 40*s.* they were better off, but not now.

14821. What is the rate of wages in your district?—Nine shillings and ten shillings a week.

14822. Is not the labourer with 10*s.* a week able to command a greater quantity of the necessaries of life than he used to be 10 years ago?—I doubt it very much; the price of meat is very high now; Irish bacon is high, and they are getting in debt.

14823. With respect to candles and soap, are not those articles reduced in price?—Yes.

14824. In your opinion, is it in the power of the Legislature to pass any measure of relief to the farmer?—I do not know. I think the value of money has a great deal to do with it; if you look back beyond the last two or three years particularly.

14825. Then you think that nothing can be done except an alteration of the currency?—I think not, except for the very best land.

14826. Mr. *Loch.*] How would an alteration in the currency benefit you?—It would raise prices generally.

14827. Would it not raise all prices?—Yes.

14828. Would you not then have to pay for every thing more than you have to pay now?—Not for every thing.

14829. What would be excepted?—All fixed payments of every kind, rent and taxes.

14830. But for every thing else the price would rise in proportion to the rise in the price of wheat?—Yes, it would have a general effect upon prices.

14831. Supposing the rent were lowered, would not that come to the same thing?—If it were lowered very much indeed, perhaps it might, but there are some expenses that would not be lowered then.

14832. Such as what?—A variety of wages. I think a person would not be able to live so well with 100*l.* instead of 200*l.*; supposing the rent were to be reduced to one half, we should have a less capital, we should lose half of our capital; we should have the same per centage upon a reduced capital, and therefore we should have a reduced income.

14833. The capital is reduced now, is it not?—It is reduced now.

14834. Then the lowering of the rent will not reduce it lower?—Certainly not.

 14835. Then

Mr. *J. Freeland.*

11 May 1836.

14835. Then by as much as the rents were lowered you would be a gainer, and your capital would remain as it is?—As it is now, certainly.

14836. Mr. *Cayley.*] You have had experience of both states of things; you had experience of farming before Mr. Peel's Bill came into operation, and you have had experience since?—Yes.

14837. And notwithstanding all theories upon the subject, you find your condition, and you know that the condition of the labourers and the farmers, generally speaking, was better before Mr. Peel's Bill than it has been since?—Yes.

14838. Do you consider that the labourers were better off then than they are now?—I do.

14839. Do you conceive that they were better employed than they are now?—Certainly.

14840. Was their employment more certain?—Yes.

14841. Was their task-work comparatively higher than it is now?—They got more.

14842. Were they paid at a higher rate for the task-work?—There is very little task-work now.

14843. If there is any task-work now, is the farmer more inclined to drive a harder bargain than he was before Mr. Peel's Bill?—There is so little task-work that I hardly know.

14844. What is the reason of the change that there is so little task-work?—The farmer's poverty.

14845. Would not the poverty of the farmer rather tend to make him drive harder bargains in the shape of task-work with his labourers, if some other circumstances did not interfere to prevent it?—Certainly.

14846. Is not one of those circumstances that a great number of persons are thrown upon the parish, and those persons are obliged to be employed by the farmers?—When that was the case, but it is not so much the case now.

14847. Taking the present wages of the labourers, do you think they are paid out of the profits of the farmer?—No.

14848. Do you think they are paid out of his capital?—Certainly.

14849. If they are paid out of the capital of the farmer, is that a solid foundation upon which the condition of the labourer can rest?—Certainly not.

14850. Then you conceive that although the labourer is receiving a high rate of wages, that rate of wages coming not out of the proper fund for labour, namely the profits of the farmer, that state of things is not likely to last for the labourer?—Exactly so.

14851. If all labour and all expenses were to be lowered in proportion to the fall in prices, do you think that then the condition of the labourer would be as prosperous as it was before Mr. Peel's Bill passed?—Perhaps it would then.

14852. Do you think there would be the same demand for his labour that there was then?—I can hardly imagine that to take place; low prices must tend to drive the land out of cultivation.

14853. Is not there a heavy pressure upon all industry, and upon all the productive classes in consequence of the national debt and other national incumbrances?—Certainly.

14854. And that cannot be reduced in proportion to the fall of prices?—I suppose not.

14855. Did you perceive the effect of Mr. Peel's Bill soon after it came into operation?—Yes, I perceived the effect of it before it actually took place; the anticipation of it lowered prices.

14856. Do you remember before Mr. Peel's Bill came into operation that there was a great withdrawing of the Bank of England circulation between 1815 and 1816?—Yes, it fluctuated very much.

14857. Was that to prepare for Mr. Peel's Bill?—I thought so.

14858. Do you remember any pressure upon the farming interest in consequence of that?—Yes.

14859. Were you a farmer then?—Yes.

14860. Do you remember the great distress in the agricultural interest then?—Yes.

14861. Was there a pressure also upon the mercantile interest?—I believe there was.

14862. Do you remember any relief to the agricultural interest about that time?—When there was an increase in the paper circulation.

14863. When did that take place?—I cannot tell exactly now, but I think in 1822, 1823, and 1824.

14864. Was not there an increase of the circulation between the end of 1816 and the beginning of 1818?—There was a decrease of country bank paper of 20 per cent in 1816.

14865. Was there an increase in 1817 and 1818?—There was an increase of 28 per cent. in 1818.

14866. Do you remember whether the farmers were better off at that time?—Yes, when the increase took place.

14867. You remember the fact?—Yes.

14868. Do you remember whether the mercantile interests prospered also under that increase of currency?—Yes.

14869. Do you remember a great falling off in the currency after Mr. Peel's Bill took place in 1819?—Certainly.

14870. Have you paid much attention to the subject of the currency?—I have, as much as my business would allow, merely as an amusement.

14871. Do you remember a great pressure taking place upon the agricultural interest after Mr. Peel's Bill came into operation?—Yes, there was a decrease in the country bank paper of 23 per cent. in 1819, and an another decrease in 1820 of 32 per cent.

14872. Mr. *Loch.*] Will you state your authority for that statement?—It is Mr. Marshall's Digest of the Parliamentary Papers.

14873. Mr. *Cayley.*] Do you remember how that agricultural distress was relieved?—By a fresh issue of paper.

14874. When?—In 1822; there was an increase in 1823; there was an increase in 1824 of 26 per cent.

14875. Was there any withdrawal of that currency after 1825?—Yes, in 1826 a decrease of $34\frac{9}{10}$ per cent.

14876. Accompanying that decrease, was there adversity among the farming interest?—Wheat fell from 66*s.* in 1825, to 56*s.* in 1826, and it was 56*s.* in 1827.

14877. Then the price of wheat rose again from 1828 to 1832?—From 1827 to 1828 it rose; in 1829 it rose again.

14878. Can you account for that rise in the price of wheat when no corresponding increase in paper took place?—In 1828, 1829 and 1830 there were three deficient crops.

14879. Should you say that none of the other fluctuations of price which have taken place in the periods over which you have gone were in consequence of deficient harvests?—I should say that beginning with 1815 there was a very good crop.

14880. Can you give any statement of the seasons and the crops ever since 1815 to the present time?—

1815	Full average.	1825, 1826, 1827	Average.
1816	Very deficient.	1828, 1829, 1830	Deficient.
1817	Deficient.	1831, 1832	Average.
1818, 1819	Average.	1833, 1834	Above average.
1820	Very abundant.	1835	Bare average.
1821	Average.		
1822	Full average.		
1823, 1824	Deficient.		

14881. You have been asked whether although the price of wheat has been low other crops have not been comparatively high; can you account for wheat being lower than other crops?—Certainly; I think there has been a great deficiency of every thing for the last three years, except wheat, in consequence of the dry springs and summers, which have been favourable to wheat, but unfavourable to the spring corn.

14882. Then, although the price of barley, beans and oats has been high, that price has not been sufficient to cover the scarcity of crop?—No, certainly not; because it was a half crop with an average price.

14883. What has been the price of meat and the price of wool?—It has been pretty high, but there was no profit upon grazing last year.

Mr. *J. Freeland.*

11 May 1836.

14884. Had you any failure of the turnip crop?—There never was such a failure known.

14885. Was there a great fall in lean stock in consequence?—There was.

14886. Was there a great rise in the price of fat stock at Christmas in consequence?—Yes.

14887. Do you attribute the present rise in the price of meat to the deficiency of winter food?—Entirely.

14888. Do you think that the present price of meat has paid the feeder, taking into consideration the expense he has been at in feeding?—Certainly not.

14889. How has the price of meat, and wool, and sheep been the last few years?—The price of wool has been high, and the price of lean stock has been high the last three or four years.

14890. Can you account for lean stock and wool being high the last few years?—A scarcity occasioned by the rot of sheep during four or five years; there were more lost than was ever known.

14891. Do you think the loss from the rot has been supplied by this time?—I should think not; but it may be nearly by this time.

14892. Those parties who lost their sheep by the rot have had no advantage from the rise of price in consequence, but the upland farmers who lost nothing by the rot, experienced great prosperity in consequence?—Those that had no rot must have had a very profitable time.

14893. How has your lambing season been this year?—I believe not good.

14894. Has there been great loss amongst the lambs in consequence of the untoward spring?—I hear so; but I am a grazier myself, I am not a flock farmer.

14895. Do you hear whether there is an anticipation of a short clip of wool in consequence of the scarcity of winter food?—I have not heard that.

14896. Do you live in the neighbourhood of the hops?—No, I live near Chichester; I know nothing at all of hops.

14897. How are the tradesmen in your district—do they complain of the times?—Yes, very much; they complain that the labourers cannot spend as they used to do.

14898. Do they complain of the farmers not spending?—Yes, they have been complaining of the farmers for some time, and now they complain of the labourers.

14899. Do they complain that the farmers do not pay their bills?—That I have not heard.

14900. Have you been able to reduce your blacksmith's bills, and your wheelwright's bills, and your harness-maker's bills?—Now they are reduced.

14901. Are they reduced in proportion to the fall?—Not in proportion yet.

14902. Is not there a rise lately in the price of wheat?—Yes.

14903. To what do you attribute that?—To the anticipation of a bad crop, and the great consumption that has taken place.

14904. What do you think will be the effect of the new Poor Law upon the labourer; will it tend to reduce his wages?—I suppose it will.

14905. *Chairman.*] Why do you suppose it will?—He does not get so much employment; he is not fully employed; and therefore, instead of going to the workhouse, he will be inclined to work for less wages.

14906. Mr. *Cayley.*] He would rather accept less wages than go to the workhouse?—Yes. I should hope in the end it will raise his wages.

14907. Do you think that some of the worst of the parish will be rather inclined to flee away from the parish than go to the workhouse?—I hope they will emigrate.

14908. Then there will be a less number of labourers, and the rate of wages will rise in consequence?—Yes.

14909. If that be the result, then the rate of wages will rise, and so the farmer will not derive so much benefit from the measure as he would otherwise derive?—Certainly not. I think the poor man's consumption has lessened already.

14910. Has there been a great change of the tenantry in your neighbourhood?—Not very great.

14911. Do you think the tenantry as a body are as rich as they were 20 years ago?—No, I think not so rich as they were three years ago.

14912. Were they a prosperous body 20 years ago?—They were.

14913. Was farming then considered an uncertain occupation?—No, certainly not.

14914. Has

14914. Has it been a very uncertain one of late years?—It has.

14915. Do you think the state of the farmers has arisen from the hard-heartedness of the landlords not reducing the rents in time?—No, I think there has been an uncertainty of price, whatever it arose from; I say the alteration in the value of money.

14916. You think that if there was something done to help you in the shape of a sound increase of the currency, that would relieve the distress?—I have no doubt of it.

14917. What sort of recommendation would you make to the Committee in the way of a change of currency?—I am not a legislator.

14918. But you have felt practically the effects of legislation in this particular in the former change of the currency?—Yes.

14919. Supposing the rent was to be taken away upon a great part of the lands of Sussex, particularly upon clay land, and the price of wheat was to be from 36 *s.* to 45 *s.* a quarter, do you think that land could be cultivated at a profit?—Certainly my farm could not.

14920. Then the rent upon the land is not the whole question?—I do not think rent has any thing to do with the question, if you take the whole of the land now in cultivation.

14921. Then even so far as the occupier is concerned, if prices remained at from 36 *s.* to 40 *s.* a quarter, you do not think the occupier could make any profit?—Certainly not.

14922. And the landlord might go to the dogs?—He must.

14923. What sort of soil is yours?—Loamy chiefly, and partly gravel.

14924. What will it produce an acre?—About 24 bushels on our acre, which is three-fourths of the statute acre.

14925. What would that be upon the statute acre?—30 bushels upon our acre is 40 upon the statute.

14926. Does your land grow 40 bushels of wheat an acre?—No, about 28; it must be very well cultivated to produce what I have said.

14927. Should not you call that more than the average crop?—Yes.

14928. Even upon that land you could not grow wheat with the prices at from 36 *s.* to 40 *s.*?—No.

14929. What sort of prices would you think would be sufficient to bring farming round to a proper degree of remuneration?—I think the minimum is 56 *s.* a quarter for wheat, and barley about half the price of wheat, and oats about three-fourths of barley.

14930. And mutton and beef how much?—That is not of so much importance, because we buy in and sell out again, I think 6 *d.* a pound.

14931. Will you state what you consider to have been the effect of the Beer Act upon the labouring population?—I think that it has demoralized them very much.

14932. Do you conceive there would be any relief from the abolition of the malt tax?—Yes, very great.

14933. Upon the morals of the labouring people?—Yes, upon their morals.

14934. How would you propose to substitute a tax for the malt tax?—I am not a legislator, as I said before.

14935. Do you think that any mischief would arise from reimposing the beer duty?—I think it would be more a tax upon sots than the present tax, and therefore I should not object to it.

14936. Mr. *Heathcote.*] You have stated that you think the change of currency would have the effect of materially raising the prices of agricultural produce; do not you think it would be followed by an increase of rents?—It depends upon what the increase of price was.

14937. Without a considerable increase, of course it would not be worth while to make the change?—If the price of wheat was 56 *s.* a quarter, I think only the present rents could be afforded.

14938. If you had a material rise of agricultural produce, would not the landlords raise their rents?—If it was very material, but if it did not exceed 56 *s.* a quarter, they could not have more rent.

14939. It would not be worth while to run the risk of changing the currency to raise the price of wheat 3 *s.* or 4 *s.* a quarter?—I cannot say.

14940. You state that the labourers in your county are not better off than they used to be?—Not at present.

14941. Are you aware what is the present price of clothing and bread, and most

Mr. *J. Freeland.*

11 May 1836.

of those articles which the labourers buy?—Some things are very low, but the price of meat is very high.

14942. Is not bread infinitely cheaper than it used to be 30 years ago?—Yes.

14943. Are not articles of clothing much cheaper?—Yes.

14944. Are not coals much cheaper?—Yes.

14945. Have you any idea that in your part of the country bread is higher than it ought to be relative to the price of corn?—I think not in the country.

14946. You state that the effect of the Beer Act has been very pernicious indeed. Do you think that any measure which would give greater facilities to beer-shops, and putting them upon the footing of the present public-houses would be attended with increased injury?—I think so.

14947. Mr. *Evans.*] Eight years ago, when you took your farm, was not the currency the same that it is at present?—Certainly; but there has been a difference in credit, or something which has had an effect upon prices.

14948. Would it not be the natural consequence that the fall of prices since that has been caused by the increase of production?—I think the last three or four years certainly.

14949. Mr. *Cayley.*] Did not 1*l.* notes come to an end in 1829?—Yes, and I think there has been a decided alteration since that time.

14950. Was not there a tendency in the price of wheat to fall from 1826 to 1828, when the wet seasons began?—Yes, the wet seasons tended to carry up the price.

14951. Since the wet seasons ended, has there not been a progressive fall in price?—Yes.

14952. Under average seasons and the cultivation of the last ten years, what do you expect to be the natural price of wheat in the English market?—It is all guess, but I should say not exceeding 50*s.* a quarter.

14953. Do you expect 50*s.*?—No, I do not.

14954. Sir *Charles Burrell.*] Is not money the mere representative of value?—Certainly.

14955. Do not you consider that the basis of value in this country, generally taken in the hiring of farms, is the value of wheat?—In the western part of Sussex.

14956. Were not the capitals of the farmers greatly reduced in value by the Currency Act?—Certainly.

14957. Did not sinking farmers hang to the farming occupation long after they were productive, until they were absolutely ruined in hopes of better times, and a rise in the value of their capital?—Exactly.

14958. Were not very many land-owners occupying their own land on which mortgages existed, totally ruined by the sudden, premature, injudicious and injurious operation of the Currency Act?—I say so certainly, but that is opinion.

14959. You have stated that the beer-shops have demoralized the people considerably. Do you suppose that the Beer Act tended at all to the benefit of the families of the labourers?—Certainly not.

14960. Did it not lead very much not only to the demoralization of the husbands and fathers of families, but did it not place the families in a much worse situation of destitution than they ever had been in before that Act passed?—Certainly.

14961. Do you not, upon the whole, think that it was the most erroneous Act in judgment that could well be passed as affects the morals of the population?—I think it was the worst Act of Parliament that ever was passed in my memory.

14962. *Chairman.*] Are the beer-shopkeepers included amongst the shopkeepers that have suffered lately?—Yes.

14963. And the village shopkeepers?—Yes.

14964. May not that be attributed partly to the operation of the new Poor Law?—They say so.

14965. Were not those shopkeepers in the habit of making very large profits from the poor people?—Yes.

14966. And allowing them to run into debt?—Yes.

14967. You state that you are a grazier. What portion of your farm is in grass?—I mean that I only buy sheep to fatten them, upon turnips chiefly.

14968. Sir *Charles Burrell.*] Do not you also think that the operation of the Beer Act was injurious so far as it prevented the shopkeepers selling good wholesome home-brewed beer, which they were in the habit of selling to the labourers who carried it out with them to their labour?—Yes.

14969. Do not you think that that forced them upon the beer-shops very much? — Probably it did.

Mr. *J. Freeland.*

11 May 1836.

James Smith, Esq., called in; and Examined.

14970. *Chairman.*] YOU live at Deanston?—Yes.

James Smith, Esq.

14971. Where is that?—In the western district of Perthshire, in Scotland.

14972. Do you occupy a considerable farm in that part of Scotland?—About 200 acres.

14973. You are a manufacturer, I believe?—I am.

14974. Have you improved your farm lately?—I have.

14975. In what way?—Chiefly by thorough draining and sub-soil ploughing.

14976. What was the nature of the soil upon your farm?—It was various; there is some part of it rather light soil, some of it gravelly upon the edge of the river, and some lightish loam, with rather a tenacious bottom, and in other parts a stiff sandy clay.

14977. Is it a stiff sub-soil?—Some part of it very stiff.

14978. And it was all subject very much to wet?—The greater part of it was covered with rushes and bent before being drained.

14979. Will you describe to the Committee your mode of draining?—The principle upon which I drain is to put in drains frequently, so that there may be opportunities for the water to pass off, because I find that in our climate the chief injury arises from the water that falls from the heavens.

14980. Are those drains placed up the furrows or across the land?—They are placed in the same direction that the furrows were before, but I have now no furrows. I lay all my fields down without any furrows. I object to furrows, because water is allowed to collect in a body, and thereby ruins the soil.

14981. The fact is that those drains are so frequent that they answer the purpose of furrows?—Yes, they answer the purpose of furrows.

14982. How far are they apart?—Twenty-one feet, and two feet six inches deep to the bottom.

14983. Do you drain with stones or with tiles?—Chiefly with broken stones, because I have stones upon the land.

14984. You spoke of sub-soil ploughing; you are the inventor of a sub-soil plough?—I am.

14985. Do you use it after draining?—After draining. I first take a grain crop, and then after the separation of that crop from the ground I sub-soil plough.

14986. How far do you fill up the drain with stones?—I put in 12 inches of stones, leaving 18 inches between the upper part of the drain and the surface of the soil, and then I cover them most carefully with very thin sods, overlapping at the joinings, because it is of the first importance to prevent the soil which has been recently moved from running into the drains. There are many drains destroyed by means of the soil getting in at the top.

14987. The water comes in at the side of the drains?—Yes, by fissures in the sub-soil.

14988. Will you describe the operation of the sub-soil plough?—I have got a plate of it here, [*producing the same.*] The principle upon which I constructed that plough was this, that I saw it was of the greatest importance to break up the sub-soil, especially where it was tenacious. I saw that the common trench plough, when used to break up the sub-soil, at the same time turned over the recently moved sub-soil to mix with the surface soil, which induced a sort of partial sterility for a time. I then bethought me of having a plough that would move the sub-soil, still retaining the active soil upon the surface, and I considered how I should construct it to have the least draught, so that the horses might easily draw it, because I was aware that it would require considerable force. I therefore made the plough as thin as possible in its transverse section, and the share of the plough, which is usually made with a free point not touching upon the lower part of the plough, and I found it was apt in stony land to get knocked out of its place, and therefore I made a mortice in the sock, and inserted the point of the share in this mortice: then in order to move the sub-soil as much as possible, I placed an oblique spur upon the one side of the plough, which throws up the sub-soil after the furrow has been divided and breaks it, but does not throw it further up than the bottom of the furrow of the active soil.

James Smith, Esq.

11 May 1836.

14989. Mr. *Handley.*] Is not the spur liable to choak?—Sometimes I have found that in very stiff clay a little quantity of clay accumulated between the spur and the side of the plough, but it does no harm, it always keeps itself free.

14990. Does not it increase the draught?—It does not materially.

14991. How many horses does it require to work that plough?—Generally four horses in ordinary sub-soils, but upon some it has been necessary to use eight horses.

14992. How deep do you plough?—Sixteen inches from the surface.

14993. Mr. *Loch.*] What is the depth of the original furrow?—Six inches; we first go on with the common plough and turn over a furrow of the depth of six or eight inches, and then the sub-soil plough goes and stirs up the bottom without bringing the soil further up than its original position, then when the common plough comes round again, it throws the active soil upon that part which has been sub-soiled.

14994. Then the advantage of stirring up the sub-soil is that the water which falls gets down to the bottom of the second furrow so as to relieve the upper soil from the effects of the rain that falls?—Yes; besides, there is a constant operation of the air upon the sub-soil, which converts it into soil.

14995. Mr. *Cayley.*] Is it with a view to draining principally?—With a view first to draining, and then to converting the sub-soil into a fit soil for growing plants.

14996. It makes the soil more permeable?—Yes.

14997. How long have you been doing this?—About twelve years.

14998. Did you say that it causes a sterility in the first instance?—It was to avoid that, that I contrived the sub-soil plough; the ordinary way of trenching the soil does an injury for a time in that way, but in order to avoid that, I stir up this sub-soil without bringing it up, and keep the active soil still upon the surface, and then in the course of the rotation of crops the action of the water and the action of the atmosphere, which is constantly going like a tide into and out of the soil, converts this sub-soil into a mould, and then it may be turned up with safety. I turn it up to the depth of sixteen inches.

14999. In the first instance, if you were to turn up that sub-soil, it would not be a productive soil, and therefore you prepare it by this course for subsequent turning up when it is prepared?—Yes.

15000. When you conceive it to have come into a proper state for vegetation, do you turn it up at once or gradually?—At once.

15001. Do you find that the soil will be very productive the first year after it is turned up?—I find it so.

15002. Do you stir it up with the old soil?—I sub-soil it only once. I then take a green crop, followed by a grain crop, then it lies three years in grass, and then after that, I take a crop of oats, and then after, I turn it up to the depth of sixteen inches.

15003. Then it takes about three or four years to bring the sub-soil to a proper degree of preparation?—It does.

15004. After the sub-soil has been brought into a proper degree of preparation for vegetation, have you ever tried the experiment of bringing in a certain proportion, say a fourth part of the sub-soil after it is prepared, into co-operation with the active soil?—I have, and it answers very well.

15005. Do you consider that the bringing into play the whole of the sub-soil at once is a better thing and more productive than holding in reserve a portion of the sub-soil?—I think it is.

15006. After turning up the sub-soil, how many years have you grown crops upon it?—My mode of cropping is a seven years shift, and I have now four fields undergoing a second shift.

15007. Have you had the experience of what the condition of the previous active soil becomes, from being in a state of rest for several years?—It is all mixed together.

15008. Then the effect of your system is to produce a new soil instead of the old one?—Yes.

15009. Mr. *Denison.*] According to your plan, supposing you were not to have turned up any of this sub-soil, but merely to have had your sub-soil plough pass through it, and were to go on cultivating without any thing being turned up to the top, instead of producing sterility, would even that produce an improvement of the crop?—It would, and a continued improvement.

15010. After getting upon land that has been sub-soil ploughed, and then ploughing

ploughing it up again, do you find that the sub-soil continues friable?—I do to the bottom.

15011. With strong tenacious soils you do not find that it is run together again?—No.

15012. Mr. *Heathcote.*] You have no furrows, and you plough 16 inches deep in all parts of the farm?—Yes.

15013. Do you find that the water stands at the bottom of the furrow any length of time before it gets into the drain?—I do not think it does, but I cannot see the bottom of the furrow.

15014. When you turn it up how do you find it?—I find it particularly dry, and sometimes, where the land has been poached in consequence of taking off a green crop, still it is perfectly dry at the bottom of the furrow.

15015. You do not find that the treading of horses has any effect upon it at that depth?—None whatever; the effect of the most thorough poaching does not go beyond six inches, and below that it is found quite dry.

15016. Will this sub-soil ploughing apply to all species of soils?—I have never yet seen any soil that it would not apply to.

15017. The most retentive stiff soil?—Yes and deep bog as well.

15018. Mr. *Denison.*] After breaking up the sub-soil, but without turning it up to the top, suppose the farmer was to continue to plough it seven or eight inches, in that case how long do you think the operation on the sub-soil would remain effectual, or how soon do you suppose it would run together again?—I think it would never run together in a solid form, because, when it has been turned up there is a constant circulation of the water and the air, which prevents running together again; and when soil is laid in a dry position and exposed to the atmosphere, it seems to get some sort of attractive quality; if you look at any mould you will find that it is all in little globules, and those are gathered together in large masses, forming larger globules which keep the soil open.

15019. Do you think that the mere operation of allowing water and air to pass among the soil at a considerable depth in the ground would, to a certain degree, produce that effect upon solid clay of converting it partially into soil?—I think it would.

15020. Mr. *Evans.*] In your seven-course shift how often do you make use of the sub-soil plough?—I never make use of the sub-soil plough more than once after draining.

15021. Mr. *Heathcote.*] You consider one proper use of the sub-soil plough as a permanent improvement?—Yes.

15022. *Chairman.*] What is the cost per acre of the sub-soil ploughing?—About 30 *s.* an acre.

15023. Mr. *Heathcote.*] How do you calculate the cost?—I reckon that the farmer in estimating his work ought to charge his horses at what they cost him to keep during the year, and I charge a day's work.

15024. And you suppose that he is in possession of the plough?—Yes; the cost of a plough upon a farm forms but a very small item; you get a good plough for 7 *l.* or 8 *l.*

15025. Mr. *Handley.*] What is the weight of your plough?—The weight of the plough which I use is 400 pounds.

15026 Have not you decreased the weight lately?—I have not myself; many experiments have been tried in our part of the country; we had several ploughs of various weights brought forward, and it was perfectly clear, upon a comparative trial, that the heavier plough was the best.

15027. That is the description of plough which you apply to all lands, whether they be stony or pure clay?—Yes.

15028. In working six horses or more you place them three and three?—Yes.

15029. Mr. *Loch.*] What was the nature of that soil which you said was covered with bent before you ploughed it up?—A great part of it I did not think worth more than 5 *s.* an acre.

15030. In consequence of what you have done to it, what is it worth now?—I consider that it is worth 2 *l.* an acre to any farmer.

15031. What was the course of cropping that you adopted in the improvement of the land?—At first I was rather undecided with regard to the rotation I should follow, till from observation I formed a judgment what was the best course. The mode of rotation which I generally followed was this: I drain always, if possible, in the lay or grass, because by draining in the lay the work is more neatly done;

James Smith, Esq.

11 May 1836.

then having completed the drains, I take a crop of oats the next year. Upon the greater part of that farm I have been obliged to plough very shallow furrows for the first crop, because there was not more than three or four inches of soil that I dared turn up; then I took a crop of oats, and upon some of the fields I had not more than from 24 to 30 bushels of oats. After the separation of that first crop from the ground, I applied the sub-soil plough. Then I gave it another ploughing, and had a green crop; potatoes upon some parts, and turnips upon others.

15032. Could you have attempted any of those crops previous to the sub-soil ploughing?—Not to advantage.

15033. How long had it been in grass before you turned it up?—Some of it 15 years.

15034. Sir *Charles Burrell.*] Have you any yellow clay soil?—I have.

15035. After draining it, had you ever the curiosity to see the comparative colour of the earth which had been so drained with relation to what it was before? I have, and when I went down to the original soil, I found it of the same colour as that which had been moved was when in its original state; but I found all which had been moved becoming a brown mould and more friable, and having that peculiar character that I explained before.

15036. Mr. *Loch.*] What is the next crop after the turnips and potatoes?—I then lay down what I have had in potatoes with wheat; I sow wheat in the end of the season, as soon as I can get the potatoes up; on what I have had in turnips I grow barley upon in the spring, and I sow grass seeds upon both.

15037. You could not have attempted barley upon that soil before?—Not with any success, and not wheat, because the land was so full of moisture that it honeycombed by frost, and so threw out the plants. There was one field especially, after a very severe winter, and with frost, there was sometimes a space of 20 or 30 square yards from which every plant or vegetable had been thrown, not a bit of grass remaining upon it.

15038. After the wheat what do you take?—I sow grass and barley.

15039. How long do you let it lie in grass?—Three years.

15040. Do you cut it for hay?—Some; the other is pastured from the beginning.

15041. What is the nature of the grass it produces?—Very good, and very heavy crops of hay; I have generally about 300 stone, which is about three tons per acre.

15042. What sort of seeds do you lay it down with?—Rye-grass and clover; about a bushel of rye-grass, about four pounds of red clover, and about ten pounds of white clover; then I put a few pounds weight of Timothy grass, and also of cocksfoot.

15043. Do you cut the whole of your grass, or only a portion of it?—Only a portion of it; I pasture some from the beginning.

15044. Does the grass you cut after you have improved the soil in this manner at all resemble the grass that existed previous to the ploughing up?—Not at all; it is of a very deep verdure and very luxuriant growth, and before there was a great deal of star grass and other coarse herbage.

15045. How do you stock the grass land?—I find that I can keep a good Ayrshire cow to the Scotch acre on the pasture.

15046. What other sort of stock do you put upon it?—I put sheep upon my young grass all winter.

15047. What sort of sheep?—Leicestershire; I generally keep them upon the young grass till about the 1st of May.

15048. Do you breed the Leicester yourself?—Yes.

15049. Where do you get them from?—I got them at first from a Mr. Richmond, near Perth, an English farmer, who settled in Scotland some years ago.

15050. Mr. *Handley.*] At what time do you turn stock upon the young seeds in autumn the first year?—Immediately after the separation of the crop, if it is dry weather.

15051. What description of sheep, and how many per acre?—Leicester sheep, generally ewes, and sometimes young sheep, both wedders and young ewes.

15052. In an ordinary winter, how many sheep per acre could you run till the 1st of May?—I cannot very well answer that question, because I shift them about from one field to another.

15053. You do not find if you graze down the young seeds close, and a frost ensues, that it poaches the land?—No.

15054. When you take the stock off in May, do you let it grow for mowing?—Part of it.

15055. And then mow once only?—Once only.

15056. And then again in the autumn you stock your land with what?—With sheep; I never allow any heavy cattle to go after the 1st of November.

15057. That portion which you do not mow, when do you turn the cattle upon it?—About the 1st of May; from the 1st to the 15th.

15058. That being when the grass is a twelvemonth old?—Yes.

15059. And from the 1st of May until the time when you take them off, that land will carry an Ayrshire cow per Scotch acre?—It will.

15060. What is the quantity of stock that you can keep the second year?—Not so many the second year, but more the third year.

15061. Do you find that the third year seeds will produce more than the second?—I do; the grass has had time to extend its roots, and grows more closely and with more vigour.

15062. Whether you grazed it the first year or mowed it?—Yes.

15063. After being down three years you take it up with what?—With oats.

15064. Mr. *Heathcote.*] It is merely grass in the rotation of crops, and it is not a permanent laying down in pasture?—Yes.

15065. Mr. *Miles.*] Do you allow your stock to depasture, or do you fold them?—I do not fold them.

15066. Mr. *Loch.*] When you break up for oats how deep do you plough it?—I tried some experiments in this way, and I thought I should succeed by deep ploughing, but I found that it did not do so well. I ploughed one field from the grass twelve inches deep, but there came a dry summer, and I found the ground too loose and too open, and I now follow the usual practice of the country, namely a six inch furrow.

15067. What crop of oats had you?—A very excellent crop.

15068. How was it compared with the oats you got when you first broke it up?—It was very superior in quality, and nearly three times the quantity.

15069. Have you gone further in your rotation on some of the land?—I have just come to it now; I am in the second rotation, and I have better crops.

15070. Do you conceive you have paid yourself for all your outlay in your improvements up to the present time?—I think I should have paid myself for all my outlay if I had improved the land and farmed it just as a farmer would do, but I improved it more expensively, more so than a farmer would do; I made roads, new fences, &c.

15071. But as far as regards mere cultivation of the land, do you think you have paid yourself?—I think I have.

15072. You have improved the value of the land to what extent?—Taking the average of the farm, I should say that it was worth before 15 *s.* an acre the whole farm; there was one field that I have laid down to permanent pasture, which was pretty good land before, but I have thoroughly drained what part required it, and taking the whole together, I should say that 15 *s.* an acre would have been a fair rent in its former state; now it is worth 2 *l.*

15073. Has your example been very much copied in your district?—It has, and in districts at a distance.

15074. Can you describe to what extent it has been followed in any part of the country you are acquainted with?—There is not perhaps any place where a whole farm has been thoroughly done as I have done mine, but there are many places in my own neighbourhood, and in other parts of Scotland, and in England and Ireland, where it has been partially introduced, and I find every day that it is extending more and more, and I find the operative farmers of my own neighbourhood are more and more taking to the principles I have followed.

15075. Is there an improved condition of the farms in consequence of following that system?—There is.

15076. What is the state of the agricultural interest in your neighbourhood generally?—I think upon the whole they are pretty comfortable; they have made great improvements within the last 10 years, and they seem to be in a great spirit for improvement at present.

15077. At whose expense is the improvement carried on?—Chiefly at the expense of the tenant; several landlords give money or materials for draining.

James Smith, Esq.

11 May 1836.

15078. Has there been any arrangement of rent between landlord and tenant?—In some cases.

15079. Are corn-rents common in your district?—They are becoming more common, some estates are let entirely upon corn-rents.

15080. Has a landlord lowered his rent where it was conceived to be too high?—He has in some cases.

15081. Has the improvement began in consequence of that lowering of the rent, or did it precede it?—In some cases it has been in consequence of it, but in other cases it has preceded.

15082. But at present there are considerable improvements going on?—There are.

15083. Have those improvements added to the general productive power of the country?—They have.

15084. Have they added much to the wheat crops of the country?—Very greatly for the wheat, more than in proportion to the other grains.

14085. Are there any considerable districts of country which in your recollection produced no wheat which are now producing goods crops of wheat?—There are several districts.

15086. Is that continuing to extend?—That is continuing to extend.

15087. Have the people began to use more wheat than they did for food?—They have in Scotland.

15088. Then are the common people in a much better condition than they were?—Much better; I do not think the working people in Scotland were ever in so good a condition as they are now.

15089. Mr. *Handley*.] What is the expense of your draining?—It depends very much upon the nature of the land, and the facility of getting material for filling the drain.

15090. Upon your own farm, where the stone is near at hand, what is the expense?—I have here a table of the expense of executing drains under various circumstances. Upon my farm, including the main drains and the sub-mains, the whole matter of draining costs me about 6*l.* the Scotch acre.

15091. The sub-soil plough is not the only implement that the agriculturists have derived from your invention; did you not invent a reaping machine also?—I did, about 20 years ago.

15092. Have you it in operation?—I had it in operation last year; it was laid aside in consequence of my having no farm of my own at that period, and the farmers were not at all open to receive it in consequence of the price of labour becoming cheap after the peace, and they found that they got on with their harvest work quietly; they are not given to change, and more especially to take anything like a new machine, and on that account the thing was laid aside; but I have been very much urged for some years past by some of my farming neighbours to resume the use of the machine again; and as soon as I could get sufficient leisure to enable me to set properly about it, I had the machine re-constructed, and last harvest I was very successful in operating upon the crop.

15093. What was the result in the quantity of acres mown per day, and the cost per acre?—The machine will cut about an English acre in the hour of either oats or wheat or barley, with two horses and one man.

15094. How near the ground?—You may go as near the ground as you can safely go for the cutters, say three inches.

15095. Did it do its work clean?—Very well; the farmers are generally so well satisfied with it, that this year there are orders for several reaping machines.

15096. How many binders attended to tie up the corn?—It depends upon the weight of the crop, about eight people will take up the cut grain.

15097. What is the cost of the machine?—It is difficult to say; it will be made much cheaper after some time, but I should say now about 40*l.*

15098. What do you consider would be the average saving between employing that machine and reaping in the usual way?—I think it can be done at about one-third of the expense.

15099. Have you turned your attention to any other improvements or any other inventions for cheapening the cost of production?—I have in some degree; I have turned my attention a little to the application of steam to ploughing land.

15100. Have you made any progress in that?—Not further than making a model.

15101. Are you of opinion that it might be advantageously applied to the cultivation of land?—I think it may.

15102. Are you proceeding with any experiments with that view?—I have not made any experiments, but I intend when I have leisure to make experiments.

15103. Are you of opinion that the best mode of contending against the depression of the times is by cheapening the cost of production?—Yes.

15104. You think that as the manufacturers have by the application of machinery been enabled to compete with low prices, so to a great extent may the agriculturists?—Certainly.

15105. Are you of opinion that the application of inanimate power will be one main mode of cheapening production?—I think it will be one of the auxiliaries, but I think the furrow draining and the sub-soil ploughing will be the great means of cheapening the production.

15106. Do not you think that steam may be made an economical means of working the sub-soil plough?—I am not certain of that, because where there are a great many stones imbedded, it would be difficult to apply the machine to that; I should expect more from the steam plough afterwards. At the same time I see a way by which the steam plough might be applied also to sub-soil ploughing by having a stationary engine. The way which I think it may be applied most advantageously is by having a locomotive engine which shall move along, and with a set of revolving prongs arranged spirally, break up the soil into small portions.

15107. Do not you conceive that the quantity of power required to propel the engine will leave but a small proportion of power for ploughing the soil?—It will require but a very little portion of power to move the engine, because the pace will be very slow, and it will be so contrived that the effect of moving the soil will propel the engine forward.

15108. Did you ever see the model of an engine of that description in the Edgeware Road?—Never.

15109. Supposing the engine were fixed during the time that it is propelling or leading the plough, might not it in cases where the sub-soil is not very strong, be applied with great success to the sub-soil plough?—I think it might.

15110. For instance, in strong tenacious clay soils, where there are no impediments, and where power alone is wanting?—Certainly; I should think it a very great matter to have an engine in that case to travel along the end ridges and to drag the sub-soil plough.

15111. You have never yet seen a steam plough in operation?—Never.

15112. You are aware that there is one invented by Mr. Heathcoat?—I have heard of it.

15113. You are not sufficiently acquainted with its mode of working, to say whether it is applicable to the purposes that have have been alluded to?—No.

15114. Have you turned your attention to the reclamation of bog and waste lands and mosses?—I have not myself, but I have observed what has been done by others.

15115. Do you conceive that there is a wide field for the employment of capital in the reclamation of such land?—I do a very profitable one, and one that will give a great deal of employment to the working classes.

15116. Do you conceive that the application of steam to a purpose of that sort might greatly facilitate and encourage the operation?—I think it might.

15117. Are you aware that Mr. Heathcoat's invention is applicable to bog land?—Yes; but with bog land as with all soils, the foundation of improvement is to make it thoroughly dry, otherwise what you do this year goes back the next.

15118. Is there a considerable quantity of moss land in Scotland capable of cultivation, that is at present waste?—There is a great deal.

15119. Are there any attempts making by proprietors or by capitalists to improve it?—Yes; there is one very successful attempt upon a small scale by an uncle of mine, Mr. Buchanan, of Catrine Bank, in Ayrshire; he proceeded first by putting in a great many drains, and making them a considerable depth, about three and a half feet to four feet; the first season he cut them about half the depth, and allowed the bog above to dry and subside. Then he next season dug them out to the full depth, and made the bottom of the drain a sort of V form, so that it might have a narrow channel for the water to run, because it is of great moment to have the bottom of the drain narrow, so that nothing may lodge, because when the water is allowed to spread out, it makes a deposit. Then he left shoulders upon

James Smith, Esq.

11 May 1836.

the drains, and he took the turf from the adjoining bog and laid it upon it, then he trenched it over with the spade to the depth of about eighteen inches.

15120. Do you know the expense of cutting the surface?—I think he paid about 50*s.* an acre.

15121. If that could be done by steam machinery at 3*s.* per acre, would not it make a very great difference in the profit of the operation?—No doubt of it.

15122. How long is it before he gets any return from the land?—He gets an immediate return; he takes a crop of oats, and perhaps the first crop is but scanty; it is irregular, in some places it is very strong, and in other places none.

15123. Does he in the first instance apply limestone or marl, or any manure?—Yes, sometimes he uses a little lime mixed with clay, a sort of compost, but generally he uses dung.

15124. What does he consider the cost per acre of the reclamation up to the period of its bearing crop?—I think somewhere about 5*l.* altogether.

15125. What would be the value of it to let in that reclaimed state?—In ordinary situations it would be worth 1*l.* per acre at least.

15126. Mr. *Miles.*] What depth of peat surface have you in those bogs?—It varies very much; we have it from twenty feet to six inches.

15127. What is the sub-soil when you come to it?—Very various; in the Carses we have fine alluvial clay, and the mode of improvement followed there is to float away the bog, and cultivate the clay below.

15128. Do you find a great subsidence of the peat?—Very great.

15129. What does that subsidence amount to?—I should say it subsides about one-third of its volume. The cultivation I speak of has been very successful upon a bog that is upon the average ten feet deep.

15130. Is there a good fall for water upon that bog?—There is a pretty good fall, but there are few situations where you do not find a sufficient fall if it is properly used, if you carry up the level correctly, because a very large quantity of water can be carried a mile upon a fall of four inches.

15131. Mr. *Loch.*] You have said that in some instances they float away the peat. Is it near you that they do that?—Yes, upon the Blair Drummond estate.

15132. To what extent has that been done?—Mr. Drummond, the proprietor, has put away about 15,000 acres.

15133. Was it a worthless moss before?—It was; it was an annoyance, it was so soft a peat that the cattle used to get bogged in it.

15134. What is the value of that land now?—Two pounds an acre.

15135. What was the cost of the improvement?—From the way in which it was done, it is difficult to say; it was begun by the late Lord Kaimes, the grandfather of the present proprietor; he gave three leases of 19 years each; he brought down Highlanders to do it, and those fellows have been working away, some of them 50 years.

15136. Mr. *Handley.*] Has it been the practice to burn the surface?—They generally retain 10 or 12 miles of the moss to burn upon the surface.

15137. Mr. *Loch.*] Are those improvements still going on?—They are.

15138. Are they going on upon other estates?—They are; there is a gentleman that erected a steam engine, and pumped up water from the Forth, and cleared 200 acres in five years.

15139. Have you any objection to state his name?—None whatever, Major Graham, of Micklewood.

15140. Has that turned out very successful?—Very successful; it cost him a great deal, for he was unfortunate in his engine; it cost him 46*l.* an acre, but he can now get for it about 50*s.* He lets it to the adjoining farmer; his own farmers are quite eager to take it.

15141. Mr. *Denison.*] Do you know how deep the peat was that was taken off the soil?—In some places 14 feet deep, from 6 to 14.

15142. Mr. *Loch.*] It has been floated down the Forth?—It has.

15143. Mr. *Handley.*] How was the portion of turf cut that was left for burning; was it dug?—They dug it up. The alluvial clay is so soft, when the moss is first removed, that horses cannot go upon it.

15144. How long is it before it will bear horses?—Generally after one summer's drying.

15145 What cost per acre does it require to cut it with the spade?—From 18*l.* to 20*l.* was paid to the contractor for cutting and floating away altogether.

15146. The

15146. The portion that is cut for the purposes of burning, how much an acre does that cost?—That is generally turned over by the person that floats it away; he is paid for the whole thing.

15147. Mr. *Loch.*] Has the low price of wheat of late years checked those improvements?—No; I think it has rather led to greater exertion on the part of the farmers, in order to meet the difficulties arising from the low prices; they are perfectly satisfied that, without improving their land and raising more corn, they cannot get on.

15148. Have the low prices in some degree, in your opinion, been owing to the great supply in the market?—Almost altogether, I should say.

15149. Have the productiveness of the seasons had any effect?—There can be no doubt it has; we have had three very productive seasons, but there has been a great improvement in the cultivation.

15150. Mr. *Handley.*] The last was not a productive harvest, was it?—Yes; upon the whole, about an average.

15151. Was there not a great deal spoiled in the harvesting?—Not very much in our district.

15152. Viewing these various experiments that are in hand, do you think that any improvement is likely to be so valuable for general purposes as frequent draining and sub-soil ploughing for strong land?—None.

15153. That, you think, is the most important thing for the general purposes of farming that you are acquainted with?—Decidedly.

15154. And applicable to more qualities of soil than anything else?—Applicable, I should say, to all qualities of sub-soil.

15155. Mr. *Loch.*] And equally applicable to England as to Scotland?—Equally so, and very much wanted.

15156. Do you know anything of the clay lands of England?—From merely passing along; but I have a friend who has made an experiment under my directions in Cheshire, upon very stiff land, Mr. Barton; it is the most thorough brick clay I ever saw; an extremely sterile farm in its original state. I visited the farm the other day, and was very happy to see that Mr. Barton had been completely successful; he has thoroughly drained the ground and sub-soil ploughed, and it is now laid down without furrows, and I there saw a large field of this extremely stiff clay with a beautiful seed surface upon it.

15157. Mr. *Denison.*] When you say that it is applicable to all sorts of soils, do you think that it is applicable to a soil where there is a bad gravelly sub-stratum?—I think so; I think any sub-stratum, if it is exposed to the atmosphere for a sufficient length of time, will become fertile. In the most barren country, if you see where a ditch has been dug, on the soil which has been thrown up you will generally find a richer verdure and strong weeds growing.

15158 Mr. *Handley.*] The gentleman whose farm you have been alluding to, how many horses did he require?—He was obliged to employ eight horses; he allowed it to get into the summer before he began.

15159. Do you know how much it cost him per acre?—I do not know; I have no doubt it would be very expensive.

15160. Mr. *Denison.*] What do you conceive to be the months within which, in ordinary seasons, you can work the sub-soil plough to most advantage?—In November and December, January and February, perhaps in October, when the crop is removed early.

15161. In speaking of the second course crop, beginning with breaking up the land from oats, you have not mentioned in what year you apply manure?—I apply manure to the green crop.

15162. You manure it heavily then, and that is the year in which you mix the two soils together?—Yes.

15163. Then you have wheat, and to that you have no manure?—No manure to wheat, and no manure to the grass; I am now beginning a system of top-dressing the grass after the first season.

15164. With what?—With night-soil, which I get from a factory where we have about a thousand people.

15165. Otherwise in your seven-shift system you would only have one heavy manuring?—Yes.

15166. When you break up from the grass again, and plough with the six-inch furrow, you would not put any manure then?—Not at all.

James Smith, Esq.

11 May 1836.

15167. Then manure again for the green crop that is to follow?—Yes, I would recommend two grain crops after grass; it is a thing in Scotland very much objected to, and which the tenants are tied down not to do, but I would take either two crops of oats, or take a crop of barley for the second.

15168. Mr. *Evans*.] Why would you advise two successive white crops?—Because in the first year when it is ploughed up from the grass, the corn derives very little nourishment from the decayed vegetable matter, and in the second year this is all available.

15169. Mr. *Heathcote*.] You would object to a crop of oats and a crop of wheat?—Yes; I do not recommend growing wheat except after a green crop.

15170. Mr. *Miles*.] Have you used your sub-soil plough without any auxiliary permanent drains?—I have, and it is the worst thing possible to deep plough land without having it first drained, and it is upon that ground that in England the shallow ploughing is so much resorted to; the deeper stiff clay is ploughed the worse; it is because there is thereby a greater reservoir formed to hold water.

15171. Supposing the instance of a marsh where you have no fall for the water, and you have about eight or nine inches of soil upon the surface that is marl, and underneath you come to a stiff sub-stratum of clay, and it is almost impossible to get the water off, the fields are separated by drains, and scarcely any fall for the water, would you there recommend your sub-soil plough?—Certainly not; I think it would just make a reservoir for more water to lodge.

15172. *Chairman*.] Would this sub-soil ploughing be applicable to dry land?—Most decidedly; I have done it in gravel and sand to great advantage.

15173. After a few years you can plough it up and make a greater depth of soil?—Yes, it is a great advantage to get a great depth of soil, even if it is gravel.

15174. Would you drain in dry land?—I have seen very little land that I would not drain, because, even in gravel and in sand, there is a dilatory subsidence of water, which is injurious to crops in some seasons.

15175. And that description of soil is liable to spring water?—It is.

15176. What is the extent of the farm in Cheshire of which you have spoken?—I think it must be about 500 acres.

15177. Have your experiments been applied to the whole of the 500 acres?—No; he has only got two fields done, but he is going on with the rest.

15178. Can you state any experiments upon any other farm within your knowledge?—I can state many, and one especially that I saw the other day upon Admiral Fleming's property; he has been very partial to this mode of draining for some years, but his overseer did not so soon come to see the propriety of it, but he began two years ago, and he has made very considerable progress, and with great success; he showed me one field where he had it thoroughly drained and sub-soil ploughed, and after a crop of potatoes he had it sown down in grass; it had been in grass about 20 years before, and let for 1 *l.* an acre; he has now let it for three years in grass at 56 *s.*

15179. Was that a favourable soil?—It was a very close bottom soil, not a stiff soil, but that sort of close soil with a very thin active soil upon it.

15180. Mr. *Loch*.] What sort of climate?—It is about the average of Scotland, moistish.

15181. Was not it worse than the average?—I dare say it is; it lies in the great hollow between the Frith of Clyde and Firth of Forth.

15182. Mr. *Handley*.] Has not the admiral or his bailiff taken a good deal to spade husbandry lately?—They have done a great deal, but it is owing to particular circumstances: the land is full of very large whin blocks, boulder stones, and it is more difficult to manage the plough in such circumstances.

15183. Mr. *Denison*.] After you have used your sub-soil plough, when you come to plough 16 inches deep, with what sort of plough are you able to plough the land 16 inches deep?—Always in breaking up for a fallow I take a 16 inch furrow, but after the 16 inch furrow has been done, and the ground allowed to lie in that state during the winter, then in the spring I cross-plough it a depth of 12 inches.

15184. When you have to plough for your fallow 16 inches deep, what sort of plough do you use for that purpose?—I use a plough of the form of the old Scotch plough, but double the size.

15185. How many horses?—Six horses.

15186. Mr. *Handley*.] What is the width of the sole?—It is rather narrow, the Scotch plough has a very narrow sole.

307

James Smith, Esq.

11 May 1836.

15187. Do you find that, after having got the 16 inches for your fallow, that you stir your fallows less frequently than in the old system?—It saves a ploughing.

15188. How many ploughings do you give to the fallow?—I gave it one ploughing with a 16 inch furrow, and then another with 12, and then I drill it.

15189. Mr. *Handley.*] Do you conceive that the plough you are now describing of 16 inches deep, is preferable to ploughing with two ploughs, one following the other?—I do not know that it is.

15190. What is the width of the furrow?—About 12 inches in width.

15191. Is that the width of the sole?—The sole is narrow, but there is a protecting bar of wood, which throws off the furrow; and the great thing that we want to do in these furrows is, not to turn them over, but to set them on edge, by which the atmosphere is allowed to get more freely into the furrow.

15192. When you plough 12 inches, how many horses do you use?—Three horses abreast, and that is becoming very general in my neighbourhood.

15193. Mr. *Denison.*] With your own horses, which are well trained to the sub-soil plough, when you work it with four horses, how much can you do in a day?—About three quarters of an acre.

15194. The gentleman you spoke of in Cheshire would do considerably less?—He must have done less. I may observe, that I have invariably found that when any person has had a sub-soil plough for the first time, he generally got defeated in consequence of the restiveness of the horses, being yoked in a manner different from what they had been accustomed to, and that the ploughmen were awkward in the management of the implement. When I first began the sub-soil plough upon my own farm, I had a much lighter plough, but I found that it was apt to be thrown out of the ground when it came in contact with a large stone. I have had a heavier plough constructed, of the weight of 400 pounds; the ploughman objected at first very much to using this plough, and said that it was so heavy that he could not manage it in turning. I persuaded him to try it for one day; he complained very much that he was greatly fatigued. I then said that he might throw it aside, and use the lighter one if he chose. He did so, but I found very soon after that he was using the heavy plough, and that the lighter plough was laid aside. I asked him the reason why; he said that the light plough was more apt to get out of order, and more apt to be thrown from the ground, and that now he had got into the mode of balancing the heavy plough at the turnings; he found it much easier to manage than the lighter one; that he did not think it more heavy for the horses.

15195. Mr. *Handley.*] In yoking the horses three abreast, one goes in the furrow and the other two on the left?—Yes.

15196. Sir *Charles Burrell.*] Is it in breaking up land or in stirring that you use the three abreast?—I use the three abreast in all my common ploughing.

15197. Do you find that three abreast do as much work as four at length?—I think not quite so much; indeed we had an experiment of three horses pulling the sub-soil plough, but they did not seem to be so able for it as the four horses.

15198. Mr. *Denison.*] Are you obliged to have a driver when you work three horses?—No; that is the advantage of the three horses, that the ploughman is able to manage them.

15199. Mr. *Loch.*] Do you do more work with the three horses than with a pair?—Certainly.

15200. About in proportion to the additional horse?—Yes.

15201. Sir *Charles Burrell.*] Do you speak of this as applied to the sub-soil plough, or as applied to common ploughing?—As applied to common ploughing.

15202. What would be the effect upon the heavy soils not drained?—I should think that when two horses go upon the unploughed land it would do no harm.

15203. Much less than when they go in line?—Yes; I consider going in line upon a furrow very injurious.

15204. Mr. *Handley.*] Does not going in line upon strong clay land prevent a considerable degree of poaching?—It prevents you from seeing the poaching, but it is doing more harm below the surface; it is an absolute injury to the soil.

15205. The question refers to land not sub-soiled?—I understood it so.

15206. Generally speaking, is not the land under the furrow much firmer than that upon the surface?—It is.

15207. Do not you think that the horse treads it less going upon the furrow than if he went upon the land?—He certainly does; but as he goes upon the land

James Smith, Esq.

11 May 1836.

that is afterwards to be turned over, there is no harm done. Mr. Sterling, of Glenburn, a proprietor in Stirlingshire, has contrived a mode of making three horses go upon the unmoved ground, keeping out of the furrow altogether, which is a very good thing, of course it will take more power.

15208. Do not you find that the effect of ploughing three abreast is to make more land with the plough?—It makes more land.

15209. Sir *Charles Burrell.*] Is that always good?—It is always good, except in ploughing from grass; then it is better to use two horses in the old way.

15210. Mr. *Denison.*] What is your reason for thinking when land has been properly drained, and the sub-soil moved, that there ought to be no furrows, but that it ought to be laid quite flat?—The reason for having a field laid down without furrows is to prevent the water from accumulating in any quantity, so as to run with force. When the ground is laid down perfectly flat, being previously thoroughly drained, the rain that falls upon the surface perforates through the soil; but if furrows were made, there would be a collection of a body of water, which would accumulate and carry the soil along with it.

15211. Mr. *Handley.*] Do you find it quite unnecessary, after your system of drainage, to cut surface drains?—Quite unnecessary; I carefully avoid all furrows.

15212. Have you ditches round your fields?—No ditches.

15213. Where do your drains go to?—I have large main drains down the main hollows of my farm, and I bring all my water into those drains.

15214. Sir *Charles Burrell.*] How do you get into the drains?—I get into the drains under the fences.

15215. That land which is against the fence, or which has underwood upon it, and which is not mowed like the rest, how is it done there?—I make a catch drain, and conduct this catch drain round the underwood.

15216. Mr. *Handley.*] In the event of one of your drains becoming stopped, what is your guide in order to ascertain the evil?—I have executed about 70 miles of drains, and I have never yet had a stopped drain upon the whole 70 miles.

15217. All the drains were stone?—All the drains were stone, excepting the sub-mains, which are of tiles. I have opened them in many parts to see how they were getting on, and I found them invariably open.

15218. Did your friend in Cheshire drain with tiles?—He drains with tiles; he has done some with stone, but he found it so expensive, from the distance he had to carry the material, that he has taken to tiles.

15219. Do you know the depth at which he lays his tiles?—Two feet and a half; I prefer laying even tiles two feet and a half deep.

15220. Does he fill up with anything?—In some cases he has filled up with gravel, in some cases he has put straw.

15221. Is not it running a great risk to take the sub-soil plough over tile draining?—Not if the tiles are sufficiently deep.

15222. Within what distance of the tile would you think it safe for the plough to go?—I should like to have six inches over the tile.

15223. Mr. *Loch.*] Your great object is not to let the water get in by the top of the drain?—No, all to get in by filtration through the fissures in the sub-soil.

15224. Mr. *Handley.*] Is it your opinion that in the United Kingdom there is a sufficiency of improvable but unimproved lands that would give full employment to the surplus population without resorting to emigration?—I think so.

15225. *Chairman.*] Have you anything else that you wish to suggest to the Committee with a view to the improvement of agriculture?—A spirit of improvement has been very much excited in our country by the establishment of an agricultural museum, which was done by three very enterprising brothers, seedsmen, in Stirling, of the name of Drummond.

15226. What is the plan of that museum?—It is to have large apartments, in which are exhibited all the different implements of husbandry; and they take great pains to get specimens of all implements known to be used in this country and in other countries; and they exhibit also produce, such as turnips, potatoes, grain, grasses, an arrangement of the grasses; and they have also specimens of soils and manures, and every thing that is interesting to the agriculturist.

15227. Is it connected with any agricultural society?—It is now connected, but it was originally instituted by these men of themselves. An agricultural association has been since formed in Stirling, and they have attached this museum to the association.

15228. Do you consider that great benefit has been derived from it?—Very great benefit; it has excited a great desire for inquiry, both among the gentlemen and farmers in the district, and also among the operatives, the ploughmen, and even the little herd-boys come in a moonlight evening to see the museum.

15229. Mr. *Denison.*] What capital do you suppose was embarked in establishing this museum?—It cost about 400*l.*; and it costs about 100*l.* annually to keep it up.

15230. Where do those persons obtain remuneration for this capital, if it is done by seedsmen in the way you have stated?—It was first attempted to get a remuneration by charging so much for admission, but it was found that that was not adequate, and the gentlemen of the district have now come forward with an annual subscription.

15231. Does that 400*l.* include the expense of the building?—Not the expense of the building. They get a great many implements sent to them, but still they are obliged to purchase a great many.

15232. Mr. *Loch.*] Do the mechanics of the district visit it much?—They do; and send in specimens of their work; there are some of the most beautiful ropes made of straw that I ever saw, spun by the lads in the district, and they send in little models of stacks and the like.

15233. What are those ropes for?—For tying the thatch upon the stacks. I conceive that the interest which this excites in the working people induces them both to take more pleasure in the work of their master, and do it more *con amore*; and that it becomes therefore of more advantage to their masters as well as more delightful to themselves.

15234. Are the agricultural operatives generally intelligent?—Many of them so, and the farmers are a particularly intelligent class; they are not men of letters, but they are intelligent, acute men in their own profession, and they have an extreme desire to improve.

15235. Do they ever go abroad to see the practice of other districts?—They do, but not so much as they ought to do.

15236. Do you reckon that a great object, with a view to the improvement of the agriculturists?—A very great object; and I think that the money that is given by societies as premiums would often be much better spent if it were devoted to paying the expenses of farmers to go round to visit different districts in the country where agriculture is followed.

15237. Mr. *Loch.*] Is there any thing in your opinion that affects the interests of the tenants in Scotland that the Legislature might improve?—I think that the law of hypothec, as it now stands, is very much against the farmer getting money to carry on his improvements.

15238. Will you explain what you mean by hypothec?—The hypothec is the preferable claim which the landlord has over the effects of the tenant for one year's rent, and by a particular process he can make it effectual upon two years.

15239. In what way is that detrimental to the interests of the tenant?—It is detrimental to the credit of the farmer, because people do not think it safe to lend him money, seeing that the landlord can take so great a proportion of his effects if he should become bankrupt.

15240. If the tenant is in good credit otherwise, does it affect him, or does not it affect more the tenant that is not in good credit?—It rather affects more the tenant that is not in good credit.

15241. You think it gives the landlord too great a share of the effects of the tenant, considering the capital that the tenant embarks in the improvement of the land?—I think so; I know one instance where a tenant had laid out a considerable quantity of money in improving his farm; the landlord gave him no assistance; he got an advance from his friends; he expended this money in improving that farm; and in consequence of some difficulties he got into, he was obliged to give up the farm, and the landlord laid his hands upon two years crop, and had all the improvements of the farm into the bargain, and the poor man lost his farm, without a sixpence for himself or his friends who had assisted him.

15242. What is the remedy you would suggest?—I do not see why the landlord should have any more claim than another creditor.

15243. In that way he might lose the current year's rent?—He might lose the current year's rent, and perhaps two years' rent.

James Smith, Esq.
11 May 1836.

15244. What is the general term of entry in Scotland?—Generally at Martinmas.

15245. When does the first half year's rent become payable?—It is generally paid the first half at Candlemas after the first crop, and the other half at Lammas following.

15246. Would it not lessen to a great extent the security of the landlord if, when the first payment is so long delayed, you also took away from him any preferable right of securing his rent?—Certainly it would do so, but I think it would make him more careful to get a tenant of some character and substance.

15247. Mr. *Baring*.] Would the landlord exercise the same forbearance to his tenant if he had not that priority?—I think he would much greater, because if he made the man a bankrupt, he would know very well that he could only come in for his share, whereas if by allowing time he would enable the man to get out of his difficulties; but by the present right of hypothec, he knows that whenever he chooses he can lay his hand upon one or two years' rent.

15248. Mr. *Loch*.] Would not he be rather inclined to indulge his tenant longer, in consequence of knowing that within a certain period he had a preferable right to recover his rent than he would do if he was placed upon the common footing of other creditors?—I think not.

15249. Mr. *Wodehouse*.] It has been stated by former witnesses that the rise of agriculture in Scotland is in a great degree to be attributed to the present system upon which their banks are carried on; do you concur in that opinion?—To a certain extent; the present system of banking, no doubt, aids the agriculturist.

15250. Do you recollect when it was in the contemplation of the Legislature, in 1825, to abolish the present system of 1*l*. notes in Scotland?—Yes.

15251. Do you think that if they had carried that intention into effect, it would have been accompanied with very great injury?—I think it would have been attended with very considerable injury to Scotland.

Veneris, 13° *die Maii*, 1836.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Shaw Lefevre.	Mr. Cayley.
Sir Robert Price.	Mr. Young.
Mr. Handley.	Mr. Wodehouse.
Mr. Miles.	Mr. Attwood.
Mr. Evans.	Mr. Heathcote.
Marquis of Chandos.	Mr. Sanford.
Earl of Lincoln.	

MR. SHAW LEFEVRE, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *George Frean*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *George Frean*.
13 May 1836.

15252. *Chairman*.] YOU reside at Plymouth?—I do.

15253. What is your occupation?—Corn-factor, miller, and biscuit-baker.

15254. You are aware of the petition that has been presented to the House of Commons and which has been referred to this Committee in reference to the grinding of flour?—I am.

15255. Did you sign that petition?—I did.

15256. Will you explain to the Committee the precise objects of the petitioners in sending that petition?—Previous to the year 1825 we carried on the baking of biscuit to a pretty considerable extent at Plymouth for the supplying of our colonies, Newfoundland principally; then it was found necessary to remove the restrictions that were laid on foreign biscuit and flour in our colonies, and that had the effect of removing the trade we had hitherto enjoyed entirely into the hands of foreigners.

15257. Previous to 1825 our colonies were restricted to the purchase of British flour and biscuit by the heavy duty on foreign flour and biscuit?—There was a duty, not a very heavy one, but sufficient to secure a monopoly to the British manufacturer.

15258. Mr. *Handley.*] Is there no duty now on importation into the West India Island?—None whatever now.

15259. Since when has that been repealed?—In 1825.

15260. *Chairman.*] What is the proposition and the object of the merchants at Plymouth?—The merchants at Plymouth wish to represent first the extent of the trade—America alone supplies upon the average a million of barrels of flour annually to the British colonies and dependencies, and those countries that we are on terms of intercourse with, Brazils for instance, in one year they exported as much as 1,800,000 barrels to the West Indies, Brazils, Newfoundland, Labrador, and other countries, all of whom we have intercourse with, and it was even found necessary, or they were glad to avail themselves of British conveniencies so much, as to send 50,000 barrels of this quantity to Liverpool for the purpose of transshipment. Immense quantities of biscuit also was sent but I cannot say the quantity from the Baltic.

15261. Mr. *Handley.* When you say for the purpose of transshipment, transshipment on what bottoms?—It comes in American bottoms to Liverpool, then it is generally sent out by English vessels that go out for sugar and other colonial produce; they would take out a much larger quantity if this measure were allowed.

15262. Then they have at this moment the carrying trade, they having the advantage over the Americans of back carriage to Liverpool?—At Liverpool to the amount of 50,000 barrels, they have that carriage certainly, but I am not aware that it is confined to British bottoms, but a vessel going to the West Indies for sugar, for instance, that would otherwise have to take ballast now takes American flour. If we were allowed to manufacture it in Liverpool of what goes from America direct, much the more considerable part would go from Liverpool; and if 50,000 can go now, after bearing the expense of shipment from America to Liverpool, the probability is, that if the flour could be made at Liverpool there might 500,000 barrels go.

15263. *Chairman.*] There is no restriction in the trade obliging persons to send their flour to our Colonies in British bottoms?—No restriction; it is open to all the world; but a considerable part of the produce from Hamburgh, Dantzic and Copenhagen, and those parts, is for the most part sent in Foreign vessels.

15264. Sir *Robert Price.*] The Americans might send it direct from their own country, but having no back carriage they find it easier to send a portion of it to Liverpool?—They have to bring their produce to Liverpool, such for instance, cotton, and to fill up the cargo they send some flour. The freight would be cheaper from America to Liverpool than it would be to certain parts of the West Indies to which this flour is destined. The next principal trade that I have to notice is, the trade from Hamburgh in biscuit, principally Hamburgh; being a free town, there is no correct return to be had; but from the best information I can get I find that upwards of 60,000 bags of biscuit, of 1 cwt. each, have passed the Elbe in one year to Newfoundland alone, and upwards of 22,000 barrels of flour goes from Hamburgh with this biscuit. At Dantzic the export of flour is larger than from Hamburgh; the flour is better; the quantity of biscuit from Dantzic I cannot say, but I find from information that masters of vessels have given me that there are establishments at Dantzic equal in magnitude to the Government establishment at Wevil. There is also an establishment of equal magnitude at Copenhagen. These are the principal ports, to say nothing of Guernsey, Jersey, &c. Then I wish to show to the Committee the nature of their exports. It is not merely that we are deprived of the manufacture of all those things, but there are so many other trades connected with it. This is a manifest of a cargo of a vessel that took damage when she was within about 30 miles of Newfoundland. She put back to Plymouth and her cargo was sold. This is a copy of the manifest of the cargo:—384 bags of bread, 750 barrels of flour, 100 half-barrels of flour, 130 barrels of pork, 50 half-barrels of pork, 120 barrels of beef, 20 half-barrels of beef, 60 firkins of butter, 25 barrels of peas, 12 barrels of pital, 6 half-barrels of pitch, 12 chairs, one sofa, one table, one case of pictures, one of looking-glasses and pictures, one bale of woollens, 20 pieces of oil cloth, 12 calf-skins, one barrel of blacking, 100 lbs. of leather, 594 hats, 6,200 bricks; this shews how many interests are connected with it. One principal article that we used to supply from the neighbourhood of Plymouth when they used to take biscuit, was shoes and boots; that has ceased by the removing of the trade. But the principal things that have been affected as far as regards agricultural produce has been butter, pork and beef, that

Mr. *George Frean.*

13 May 1836.

used to come from Ireland. A vessel that would be fitting out with biscuit and flour from Plymouth would take these articles, as well as other Irish provisions, to make up a cargo. Since they have gone to Hamburgh, &c. for flour and biscuit, they have taken German provisions, or Danish, or wherever they might happen to be, and that has thrown a considerable influx of Irish provisions into our market. A vast quantity of shoemakers that used to be employed in that neighbourhood have been thrown out of employment in consequence of it. These are rather extraneous from my own business. With respect to my own business, if the Committee will allow me to speak of myself particularly, I think my case an example of many others; I used to carry on this biscuit-baking business rather extensively; I employed a number of biscuit bakers. When this trade was taken away it was impossible for me to compete with those that could use foreign corn; it was out of the question. The consequence was, that the men I used to employ, or the greater part of them, from having been long occupied in the heat of biscuit-baking, and thereby rendered unfit for other employment, particularly of exposure to the weather, were thrown upon the parish, and several of them at this time are sweeping the streets. It is not only the biscuit-bakers that have suffered, but the millers also; it has thrown a great deal of mill power that used to be engaged in grinding this wheat into the market, and has caused a great deal of competition that would not otherwise have existed. The milling has been a bad trade, but it must not be attributed entirely to that. The farmer and the miller are indentified, and whenever the farmer suffers the miller suffers with him. In consequence of the fall of prices, and this extra competition, it has put the millers in a state to ask for all the employment that can be put into their hands.

15265. Mr. *Handley.*] When you speak of the millers do you speak of the trade generally, or of the smaller millers who are now suffering throughout the agricultural districts?—I speak of the trade generally when I say that they have been suffering; the larger the miller the more he has suffered from the fall in the prices of corn.

15266. Is not it the case that in the large milling establishments they have the advantage of water, or whether they be driven by steam, that in consequence of the large quantity they manufacture they can work at a smaller profit than the smaller millers used formerly to do?—They can generally, as the larger miller can avail himself of the distant markets when cheaper than those nearer home. But the turn has been against the large miller the last three or four years, for instance, supposing that a man required 4,000 or 5,000 quarters for his general trade (that is a large miller), my own has been about 1,000 quarters. The depreciation of price has been equal to 20*s.* per quarter, consequently the loss has been an equal number of pounds, to whatever stock the miller found it necessary to keep, whether 1,000 or 5,000 quarters.

15267. In the case you are speaking of does not the miller lose rather in the character of a corn factor to the extent to which you were speaking, and not merely as a miller depending entirely upon the manufacturing process of grinding corn?—He must keep a stock equal to his trade.

15268. When you speak of 1,000 quarters being your stock, how many quarters do you crush in a week?—About 150.

15269. And in order to crush 150 a week you think it necessary to keep a stock of 1,000 quarters?—Yes. But to return to the case of the smaller millers, the millers that are upon the sea-coast all suffered from the competition that has been caused in consequence of not having the employment that they used to have in grinding for the supply of our colonies.

15270. Have not they suffered in a still greater degree by the increase of machinery, and the quantity of capital which as now gone into the milling trade?—I should say owing more to the capital and machinery that has been employed in Ireland; that has affected the western coast, and also the neighbourhood of Liverpool and Bristol.

15271. For instance, if you crush 200 quarters of wheat and you gain only 1*s.* a quarter profit, and the small miller that crushes only 20 gains also 1*s.* a quarter profit, are not you able to undersell him, and to carry on your trade at a profit when his is at a loss?—That depends upon circumstances. If we have a good harvest in any particular neighbourhood, the little miller, whose expenses are corresponding, can hold up his head as well as we can, or rather better; but if it should happen that we have to draw our supply from a distant place, then we have the advantage.

15272. In fact you have the advantage arising out of the employment of large capital?—Yes; and living in the neighbourhood of a sea-port town.

17273. Sir *Robert Price.*] The loss you have been speaking of has been in consequence of the constant depreciation of price, getting lower and lower every week?—Yes, that has been where the millers have lost in common with the farmers; I never knew an instance where the farmer had occasion to complain, but that the miller had also.

15274. Now on the contrary you are gaining?—There is no reason to complain the last three months. Among the benefits that would result from the plan proposed, with the permission of the Committee, I will allude to the advantage that will arise to the shipping interests, we have had more shipowners to sign the petitions that we have sent than any other class, they would have to bring the wheat from whatever place might be most desirable to have it from, which would furnish a great deal of carrying trade to them. I am not so well calculated to speak of their advantages but it is manifest that there would be a great advantage to the shipping and the shipowners have perceived it; a trade amounting to two millions annually, a considerable part of which is manufacture, is lost to us.

15275. *Chairman.*] Will you state the plan that was proposed in your petition?—We consider that 100 quarters of wheat, for instance, would produce a certain quantity of biscuit or flour.

15276. Is this calculation hypothetical or founded upon experience?—It is founded upon experience. I take 100 quarters of wheat, weighing 60 lbs. per imperial bushel, that is equal to 48,000 lbs., the usual allowance of waste in the operations of cleaning, grinding and dressing, estimated at 12 lbs. the quarter, would reduce it to 46,800 lbs.; this would produce of very fine flour for exportation 33,600 lbs.; to make it marketable it must be superfine flour—the Americans have been in the habit of sending superfine flour, and if we come into the same market it must be equal to what they have been supplying—and there is another advantage in it that what remains will make much better biscuit than if it had been driven out too closely, there would then be course flour for biscuit 5,600 lbs., bran unfit for human food 76 lbs. per quarter, will give 7,600 lbs.; this will complete the total I first started with, namely 46,800. Of the above produce it is proposed to return into bonded warehouse, for the purpose of exportation, as under, $171\frac{84}{196}$ barrels fine flour, weighing 196 lbs. net, per barrel, 33,600 lbs. weight of flour. Coarse flour or meal as above, to be made into biscuit, 5,600 lbs.—other coarse flour or meal for biscuit to be substituted as an equivalent for 7,600 lbs., bran as above, say one-half, 3,800 lbs,; amounting to 9,400, which will produce (after making the usual allowance for waste and evaporation in baking into biscuit, say 10 per cent., 940), of merchantable biscuit 8,460 lbs. weight. Total quantity of flour and biscuit for exportation, 42,060 lbs. The proposition with respect to substituting coarse flour or meal for the bran was in order to satisfy the agriculturists that they are not injured by taking the bran into the country; if this was allowed, would so much bran come into the country for food of horses and hogs, instead of that we propose, that half the weight of it should be sent out in flour, which is a great deal more than the value and considerably in favour of the agriculturists for this reason—every other sort of produce is higher in proportion than wheat. It is wheat that is sought principally to be relieved, if we send out more value of wheat than the bran we do the agriculturists a service rather than an injury, and it facilitates our operation. There would be a considerable difficulty in the exportation of the bran, it might be even found almost necessary to destroy it if we were compelled to send it out, for unless it should be very dry the probability is that it would heat and rot before it came to the end of the voyage.

15277. Would not the effect of throwing so much of this bran and offal upon the market be very much against the farmer and the miller?—It would be more against the miller than it would be against the farmer; it would be in favour of the farmer inasmuch as you took of English agricultural produce of wheat and exported it, the farmer is himself in many instances a purchaser of bran.

15278. Does not the miller look very much for his profit to the offal?—Yes.

15279. Then if you reduce the profit of the miller by throwing so much offal upon the market, would not that injure the farmer, who, of course, depends upon the miller for the profit upon his corn?—I can state how the miller could find a market for the bran. It is singular enough that we have a demand for bran more than we can get to send to Ireland and to Liverpool, where its used in the manu-

Mr. *George Frean.*

13 May 1836.

factories, and the fact is, if we could make four times the bran that we do at Plymouth we could export it, and are in the habit of so doing.

15280. Mr. *Handley.*] You have been asked whether this would not be prejudicial to the miller, whose profit is derived in a great measure from the offal, would not it also come seriously into competition with the inferior and spoilt corn of the country?—No; if you were to allow this principle of exchange. I will put it in an extreme shape each way and I think I can show that the agriculturist would be benefited. I will suppose that there was a great deal of unsound corn; the farmer would have a difficulty to dispose of that, now the biscuit baker would purchase that. It does not require sound corn to make good biscuit; in fact, corn that is a little unsound will make better biscuit than some that will make excellent bread. Some corn that has much gluten and causes a great deal of tenacity in the dough is unfit for biscuit. Then, with respect to that unsound wheat, the biscuit baker would buy it at a reduced price, make very good biscuit from it, and he would have an opportunity of replacing it with Dantzic or any other good wheat. The consequence of that would be that the English consumer would have better bread, the miller would have better flour, and the farmer would have a sale for that produce which else he would not have a sale for.

15281. Sir *Robert Price.*] What advantage in money value do you suppose your proposition of giving half the quantity of corn in lieu of bran would be to the farmer?—Bran is now 4*s.* per 100, flour is 18*s.* per 100, therefore, we should be exporting 9*s.* worth instead of 4*s.*

15282. *Chairman.* What is the objection to grinding this wheat in bond?—The objection to grinding it in bond will be that it would be only certain persons that have convenient premises that would be able to avail themselves of it; I see no objection to it personally; individually I could avail myself of it very well, but it would cause a sort of monopoly.

15283. Is it your apprehension then that the price of grinding would be so high that it would raise the price of the flour, and you would not be able so well to compete with the foreigner?—It is possible that it might have that tendency.

15284. If this trade were likely to be so large a one as it must be from the statements you have made to the Committee, would not there be mills erected so as to produce sufficient competition; do not you consider that it would be worth while for persons to erect mills for the purpose of grinding this foreign corn in bond, and that that competition among the millers would soon reduce the price of milling?—I think it might.

15285. That would remove that objection, would it not?—It would; but I consider myself bound to state first what is for the general interest, and I believe I ought to say, in favour of the former plan, that that would be most beneficial to the agriculturist, for most years there is some defect or other in the crop, arising from whatever cause, the farmer would have a sale for this inferior corn, which he will not if you confine it to grinding the identical parcel of foreign corn.

15286. Mr. *Handley.*] Are the Committee to understand that the biscuit-baker would find his account in using unsound corn in preference to the best?—Yes, because he would get it in the first place at an inferior price, although he would get an article that would suit him quite as well, and in some instances better, as the wheat is not spoiled for biscuit by being a little malted, there is less of gluten and more of saccharine matter.

15287. Could you make the same quantity of good biscuit from a given quantity of unsound as from a given quantity of sound corn?—It would depend upon the dryness of it, if it should have been kiln dried after it was found to be unsound, which has been the case generally if you have a wet harvest, in that case it would produce as much biscuit as any other corn.

15288. *Chairman.*] Would that biscuit be of sufficiently fine quality to compete with the biscuit made at Hamburgh and Dantzic?—Yes; I have made a biscuit of unsound corn of which the colour and the sweetness was not at all inferior, in fact, the sweetness is rather increased provided it was not grown too much, the biscuit has been a better biscuit than if it had been made of very strong corn; if a biscuit is made of very strong dough the fierceness of the heat makes it contract, but when it is made of corn that has not so much of this toughness in it it will still retain its form.

15289. Marquis of *Chandos.*] By making biscuit of unsound corn, do not you think it would be injuring the biscuit trade?—We should benefit our own trade, because

because we should be much better able to compete with the foreigner in that respect.

15290. Would not the captain of a ship take biscuit made of good sound corn in preference to that made of unsound corn?—He cannot know the difference, nor any one else.

15291. Mr. *Handley.*] In that case what becomes of the argument that the best corn only would do for the Americans for the supply of the colonies. If inferior corn will make as good biscuit as good sound corn how can you protect the agriculturist against this, namely, that corn of a superior quality may be taken out of bond, and biscuit of unsound English corn exported in its stead?—I referred just now to this, that some unsound corn was of excellent colour, the corn that is now in bond; the inferior corn possesses all the toughness which must be avoided in corn, that is put in the making of biscuit.

15292. But that depends upon the time it has been in bond?—Not entirely; there are some qualities of wheat that never lose, that, for instance, some sorts of Russian wheat never loses, that if it was in bond 10 years it would be as tough and as strong as the first day it was put in.

15293. Sir *Robert Price.*] Do you mean clammy?—Yes; the dough would be so strong that you might pull it out; it is what is used by the Italians and Portuguese in making their macaroni.

15294. Is it of a very fine colour?—It is very yellow.

15295. Marquis of *Chandos.*] Do not you consider that if this plan was carried into execution, the benefit would be more to the trade than to the farmer?—No, I do not; I will go into that, with the permission of the Committee, to show how the agriculturist would be benefited. In the first place, by the liberation of the capital that is now locked up in foreign corn, which being already employed in corn, it is to be presumed that if it was liberated it would be employed for the most part again in the purchase of corn. The corn that is now held in bond is not held by biscuit-bakers or millers generally, except as the miller acts as a corn-dealer. I know instances in which, if the parties could have liberated their capital that was locked up in foreign corn, they would have purchased to an equal amount, if not more, when the English corn was at 40*s.* a quarter; they would have laid out the amount they then had in foreign corn, or perhaps rather more, because their stores were occupied as well as their money. It would have prevented the corn, in my opinion, from going down to the price to which it did last year. The next point is the removal of the apprehension that the agriculturist is always under of the corn that is in bond being let loose upon the market when any thing unfortunate happens to him. It is not necessary to rise to such a pitch as to let it come out at a shilling duty before it comes to be liberated; some persons will pay a duty of even 20*s.* a quarter, and release their corn; and this the farmer has known to his cost in former years; and when the market began to rise, they push in their corn lest they should be caught by the influx of foreign corn before they had an opportunity of selling theirs; that is to be apprehended very much this year. In former years we have had a great deal of inferior wheat, which has kept the averages from increasing rapidly; there is nothing of the sort now, it is all good corn, and should anything untoward happen to the crops the probability is that the averages would rise rapidly. That has caused and is causing a speculation in foreign corn at the present time, because there is an anticipation (whether it be founded in fact I cannot say) that we shall have 13 months consumption this year. We began consuming early, and the probability is we shall have a late harvest; it will make a difference in the demand of a million of quarters more from the English agriculturist; and should a rise take place we should have those five or 600,000 quarters that are now in bond let loose upon the market. Indeed, many are quite careless about this measure now, that were very anxious about it some time ago; they say we shall be liberated by the natural course of things. What with the decrease of tillage and the untoward appearance of some of the poor lands, we shall be released without; and we shall take no further trouble about it. That is the answer I have heard given in Mark Lane. That, I think, is a point of very considerable importance, and one that weighs very much with farmers. In fact I could get many scores of farmers that would sign this petition upon that ground, from the neighbourhood of Plymouth. Another benefit would be the promotion of labour. When the labourers are fully employed, it of course causes an increased consumption of agricultural and other produce; the farmer would get a

Mr. *George Frean.*

13 May 1836.

benefit there; but a very material benefit to the agriculturist would arise from the quantity of Irish provisions which would be taken for the Colonies, instead of being taken from the German and other ports at present. That would materially alter the supplies to Liverpool and Bristol. I apprehend it would also remove a strong objection made by some persons against the Corn Laws.

15296. *Chairman.*] Have you much bonded corn at Plymouth now?—I cannot say the exact quantity; I should think about 4,000 quarters.

15297. At what rate per quarter is that corn laid in at Plymouth upon the average?—Perhaps 40*s.* a quarter would be nearer than any other sum I can mention.

15298. What has been the price lately of American flour?—I cannot tell what the price of American flour has been lately; it has scarcely been a marketable article; but I can tell the prices of foreign wheat in London and in New York at the same time: foreign wheat in London 30*s.* a quarter; in New York 48*s.* 8*d.*

15299. Can you state what the freight would be from New York to our West India Colonies, or Newfoundland?—I cannot say that I am not acquainted with that business.

15300. Do you know what the freight would be from Plymouth to the West India Colonies, or to Newfoundland?—It is not a trade that has been carried on. I can state the price of flour in London and in America: foreign flour within the last six weeks was, in London 21*s.*, and in America 29*s.* 6*d.*

15301. When the Baltic ports are opened you would hardly be able to compete with the persons that sell flour at Dantzic or Hamburgh?—If we were allowed this measure, either that of grinding foreign corn or the substitution of English for it. I do not hesitate to say that we should be able to compete with them successfully; English activity and energy is such as to overcome, and more than overbalance the difference of wages.

15302. When you stated your proposition to the Board of Trade, did they make any objection to your grinding corn in bond?—Not to grind it in bond; the objection was to the substitution, but not to grinding in bond.

15303. Your own opinion is not unfavourable to the plan of grinding corn in bond?—No; it is not unfavourable, though we could do it cheaper by the substitution, because we should be able to avail ourselves of some other agricultural produce which we should not be able to do if we were to grind the foreign corn.

15304. Supposing you ground the foreign corn in bond, what objection would there be to the miller buying a portion of this lower priced corn and mixing it with the other for his export?—It would be much higher priced, and we should not be able to take advantage of having an equivalent in foreign corn. For instance, if I was to buy unsound wheat at 40*s.* a quarter, and made it into biscuit, and put it into bond, I should take out 100 quarters of Dantzic wheat and use it in my business at 30*s.* a quarter, and thereby I should gain the 10*s.* that I should lose upon the other transaction; but it would place me in the situation that I should gain upon the whole of the transaction.

15305. But still you would gain a very considerable advantage if the corn was allowed to be ground in bond?—If the corn was allowed to be ground in bond, we could successfully compete with foreigners.

15306. Do not you think it would evidently be so disadvantageous to the millers to raise the price of grinding in bond, owing to the monopoly they enjoyed, because in that way they would destroy the flour market altogether; that that plan of grinding foreign corn in bond could be advantageously adopted?—Yes; it could, I have no doubt.

15307. And to that there would be no objection on the part of the agriculturists, because it would remove all danger of fraud?—I will show that it is impossible that the agriculturist can be injured to the extent of a penny a quarter if it was adopted. If the mill, or bakehouse, or both, are put in bond and not allowed to be used for any other purpose at the time, except grinding bonded corn, if bond is given it is not probable that any one would attempt to put any thing into a place where they could not come at it; neither would they be inclined to take out in the face of the bond. That is one security; but the principal security would be the check upon the quantity. It is as regularly understood as anything can possibly be, that the manufacturing of flour into biscuit loses 10 per cent.; the weight varies as it may happen with the bushel; and if wheat heavier than 60 pounds was used there would be a surplus; but inasmuch as there can be none removed unless the officer

officer should be there, or permission from the Customs, or whatever control it was placed under, you would then catch that little excess that there might be.

15308. Then in your opinion corn may be ground in bond with the most perfect security to the revenue, and without the smallest danger to the agriculturist?—Yes.

15309. Does not that get rid of all the difficulties and of all the suspicion that would naturally be excited in the minds of the farmers if the system of exchange was adopted?—That has weighed with me more than anything else. It is possible to convince a common farmer that he is secure by that plan, whereas it would not be possible to convince the generality of farmers that they are equally secure by the others.

15310. Mr. *Miles.*] According to your first plan, you propose taking low priced corn from the English market, converting it into biscuit, laying it up in bond, and then take good Baltic wheat and bring it into the English market?—Yes.

15311. Consequently you take an unsaleable article away from the market, and you substitute an article which is generally speaking of greater worth than the highest price of our corn. Now do not you think that by bringing foreign corn of the highest description in competition with our own best description, it would injure the farmer, and that it must lower the price of the best English corn?—I do not see how it would have that effect; I should, for instance, give a higher price for Dantzic wheat than I should for Devonshire wheat, though that is rather too much to say, because we have a fancy in Devon, that Exeter produces as good wheat as any that is produced in the world. Indeed there is no question about it. But admitting that we were to purchase the best Dantzic wheat and use it in our flour, that would not depreciate the value of our best English corn. For instance, I will take Exeter wheat, I should not give the less for Exeter wheat in consequence of being able to avail myself of Dantzic wheat.

15312. The greater the quantity in the market, is not the price the less?—The quantity would not be increased, because I should remove an equal quantity of inferior.

15313. But still must not the placing an extra quantity of superior wheat in the market, beyond what was produced in England, have the effect of deteriorating the price of the higher priced English corn?—If I did so, the probability is, that I should raise the price of the inferior in a greater degree, because one is a saleable article, the other an unsaleable one.

15314. Mr. *Handley.*] What would the effect be upon the averages?—Rather to heighten them.

15315. Would not that have the effect of reducing the duty upon the import of foreign corn?—Yes it would.

15316. Would or would not that be prejudicial to that extent, to the grower of British corn?—It would not injure him to the extent of the benefit that would accrue to him from having a market for his unsaleable goods; I am now looking at an unfavourable crop.

15317. Sir *Robert Price.*] Why do you say that it would heighten the average, if you consider that it would lower the high priced corn, though it would raise the lower?—The high priced corn that would be purchased would be foreign corn, and would not go into the averages.

15318. We should purchase Dantzic, and that would come into home consumption?—Yes.

15319. And therefore come into competition with the high priced corn of our own country?—Yes; it would be used instead of it.

15320. Supposing the price of the superior corn is lowered, and the price of the inferior corn raised, why should the average upon the whole be raised?—That would cause certainly a drawback upon it, but upon the whole, I believe, the average would be heightened.

15321. Mr. *Handley.*] Is not the natural consequence of a higher priced corn coming into the market in lieu of a lower priced corn, to raise the averages?—Of course.

15322. You have stated, that the higher the averages the lower the rate of duty?—It would be so; but it would be such a very trifling affair, that it would scarcely have any effect worth notice.

15323. Supposing that 100,000 quarters of wheat at 50*s.* were brought into the market in lieu of the same quantity of wheat worth 40*s.*, would not the effect be to raise the averages to the extent of the mean difference?—Certainly it would.

Mr. *George Frean.*

13 May 1836.

15324. Is not that the natural consequence to arise?—I stated just now that the low priced corn would rise in proportion, or more than in proportion, and therefore that would counterbalance it.

13325. Mr. *Miles.*] Supposing a bad season of wheat in this country and there is a vast quantity of bad corn, but corn sufficiently good to be made into biscuit, and suppose that at the same time a very good season exists on the continent, and that there are great quantities of good corn imported and let out from the magazines into the market during the bad season of the English corn, what effect would that have upon the agriculturist?—The most beneficial that could be conceived.

15326. Will you explain in what manner?—If we had a bad season for gathering-in the corn, and the corn should be somewhat sprouted and yet good human food, that would be purchased by the biscuit-bakers of the farmers; it would enable the farmers to sell that which else would be unsaleable; a much better price could be afforded to be given to be put into biscuit, for which it is as well adapted as if it had not sprouted; I am speaking of a little sprouting of course: when it is so far gone as to be unfit for human food, that I have nothing to do with, but I am speaking of wheat that should be only so sprouted as to be unfit for the best purposes, and yet make as good flour for biscuit as any wheat in the market.

15327. But in proportion to the quantity of biscuit put into bond will be the proportionate quantity of good wheat brought into the market?—Yes.

15328. Would not that have an extraordinary effect against the small quantity of good wheat grown in that year?—It would have an effect upon it, no doubt; but if there is a small quantity of good there would be a ready market for it.

15329. Sir *Robert Price.*] The benefit to those that had corn to a certain degree damaged would be much greater than the loss to those that had the small quantity of good corn?—Just so.

15330. Mr. *Handley.*] You have stated that one of the benefits of this place would be the liberation of a quantity of capital locked up in foreign corn, and you said that at the price of 40*s.* that capital would, in many instances, be invested in British corn; but in ordinary seasons is not the probability that that capital would be reinvested in foreign corn?—I should say that generally the speculations in foreign corn are when there is a probability of a bad crop in yielding, or when the quantities are likely to run low.

15331. Has not that been the cause of the stagnation in the speculation in foreign corn during the last four years?—The stagnation of the speculation in foreign corn during the last four years has arisen from peculiar circumstances; our markets have been glutted from certain causes; I have an opinion as to the first cause of the declension of the price of wheat, which perhaps I had better not touch on.

15332. Will you state what it is?—I believe it is the alteration of the currency that first began to cause corn to fall, since which we have had three productive harvests; the last I should not imagine was a very productive one, if it amounted to an average, it is as much as it did; but if it is correct, as the papers stated, that the Inspector of Corn Returns said, that whereas we used to have six months consumption at the time of harvest in the farmers' hands, it was now reduced to one; that will account for 20 millions of quaters of produce thrown into the market, besides those three good seasons. That is how I account for the lowness of prices, in addition to the produce that has been coming from Ireland and going into our best markets.

15333. If there were this additional opportunity for the holder of foreign corn to get rid of it further than he now possesses, would not that be an additional inducement to him to extend his speculations in foreign corn?—At the present time the greatest probability is that it would be laid out in foreign corn, for foreign corn holds out a greater inducement with the prospect that I have just stated, of our having a late harvest, and our stocks of corn not so great as they were last year at this time; the probability is, that there would be a greater chance of remuneration in laying out the money in foreign corn than in English corn at the present time, though I have no doubt that a month after last harvest, when prices began to fall, if this money had been liberated, it would have been laid out in English corn when it was to be had at 40*s.* a quarter; it was considered so safe an investment, that persons that were not dispirited, and had not their money locked up, would have laid it out in English corn.

15334. As to competing with America in the supply of flour in the West Indies; have you ever taken into consideration the cost of staves for casks, and the comparatively

ratively cheap terms upon which they can procure them to what we should be able?—I have.

15335. Have you ever estimated the cost per barrel, and the difference of price between what the Americans can produce them at and what we could produce them at?—I do not conceive they could make the barrels 1*s.* cheaper than we can.

15336. Then if it has been stated that 4*s.* or 4*s.* 6*d.* would be the difference, you think that is overrated?—Yes; I have not the least doubt that we shall be able to make barrels from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.*

15337. From whence would you get your staves?—I have turned my attention to it, being convinced that justice and policy would, sooner or later, grant us this measure; I think that I should avail myself of English beech for the making the casks; sycamore might do for some of the cheaper sorts, and those that choose to have oak must pay the difference in the price.

15338. Do you mean to say that the barrels manufactured for the purpose of this trade would be made in England of English wood?—I think so; I have no doubt it would be so principally.

15339. Are not staves an articles of very great import trade at this moment?—They are; but there is a duty on foreign staves.

15340. But, notwithstanding that duty, are not foreign staves in more general use than any other?—I question whether they would be so generally used for flour; persons would scarcely like to go to the expense; at Hamburgh beech is used for their butter and flour barrels more frequently, I believe, than they do oak.

15341. Sir *Robert Price.*] For dry articles it is not of much consequence?—No.

15342. Mr. *Cayley.*] Would not the barrels be exposed to the weather sometimes?—Not often.

15343. Will beech bear rain well if it is exposed to it?—Sufficiently for the purpose of dry goods.

15344. *Chairman.*] Have you ever seen the Liverpool petition?—I have not seen the Liverpool petition, but I have seen the Liverpool proposition.

15345. Is it in your opinion an advantageous one or not?—It strikes me that it is the result of a great deal of experience and wisdom, but I do not fancy that the trade or the measure is in such a state at present fully to understand and act upon it generally. There is a great deal of difficulty in understanding it, till after time is bestowed upon it, or rather after the measure has been in operation for some time, and there was a trade established of this sort; it appears to me extremely probable that that would be the result in the course of a few years.

15346. Would not there be some danger of a great quantity of these debentures being collected in the hands of some individuals for the purpose of speculation, to be laid out at a particular time when the duty was low, so as to throw a greater quantity of foreign corn into the English market than would be advantageous to the farmer?—It would have this effect, that a person could hold a much larger quantity by that means than he would be able to do if he held it actually.

15347. Therefore it would be dangerous to allow them, under the present fluctuating duties?—It might not be advisable.

15348. Marquis of *Chandos.*] Is this petition from Plymouth signed by any farmers?—I do not think there are any farmers' names attached to it.

15349. Then it is entirely confined to the trade?—More shipowners than any other class of men; but if it depended upon the farmers, the millers would succeed in getting the majority of the farmers that come to market to sign it.

15350. Should you be able to persuade them that it was so decidedly in their favour?—I think so. I will mention an instance; one of the most intelligent farmers, I think he is a tenant of Mr. Clarke's, that heard of the proposition, said that he very much wished that the petition might pass, he was so convinced of the beneficial effect of it.

15351. Mr. *Evans.*] When British corn falls to a very low price, what effect has it upon the biscuit trade?—The biscuit trade is destroyed in England at present, for even our own vessels victual themselves in foreign ports.

15352. Therefore in the last season, when British corn was so low as to be used as food for cattle, would it not have been of advantage to the biscuit bakers to have availed themselves of those low prices, and to be able by that means to meet the foreigner in a distant market?—The difference between the lowest priced corn and the price of foreign corn has been as from 8*s.* to 12*s.*; you could get the same

Mr. *George Frean.*

13 May 1836.

same quality of biscuit at Hamburgh and Copenhagen at 8*s.* that you could make in England at 12*s.*

15353. Suppose the foreign corn was taken out of bond, and made into biscuit, would you be able, paying double freight, to compete with the biscuit trade in the Dantzic and Hamburgh market?—We should not have to pay double freight; the natural consequence would be this, we should order wheat from Hamburgh, or wherever it was cheapest; we should only have the freight to England to pay; the persons that we should sell this biscuit or flour to, instead of having to send their vessel to Hamburgh, would send it or take it from our own ports, so that there would be a freight saved to them; we should obtain our freights at the cheapest time of the year, and consequently bring it at a cheaper rate than they could go and fetch it. I can mention some circumstances to show the extent to which the trade is going on. It appears that a number of persons were waiting the result of Mr. Robinson's motion. As soon as that was decided, they sent out their orders to Hamburgh, Copenhagen and other places. There are large quantities, I cannot say the extent, but very considerable quantities are on their passage now to London from Hamburgh and Dantzic, and other places. At Liverpool, a house which has an establishment at Hamburgh, it is said, has sold within the last fortnight about 15,000 barrels to parties here, who intend to ship it to Newfoundland, the Brazils &c. This shows the extent of the trade that is going on.

15354. Do you know at what price that was bought at Hamburgh?—Superfine, 18*s.* 3*d.* to 18*s.* 10*d.*; extra superfine, 20*s.* to 21*s.*.

15355. Mr. *Handley.*] Does not that trade receive an additional impulse from the peculiar nature of the last harvest in America?—Yes. Now, at Dantzic and other places, they are preparing to take the trade that the Americans have hitherto enjoyed, and which we at present refuse, and large establishments are fitting up to supersede the American supply in many markets; and let the Americans have as good a crop as they may, they cannot compete with the produce of Baltic wheat.

15356. How can the English corn-merchant compete with the corn-merchant at Hamburgh when, probably all the foreign wheat that he has in bond has cost him 35*s.* or 40*s.* a quarter?—I do not take for a criterion what it has cost him, but I take its present value. Excellent Dantzic wheat has been bought within the last three months in London for 28*s.* per quarter; it has been sent to America, and sold for 54*s*; a transaction within my own knowledge. I take the value what it is at the present time. I could buy Hamburgh wheat in Mark Lane, and make flour from it which would afford me a remunerating profit at the prices which they are now selling Hamburgh flour for here.

15357. Has much Canadian flour come into this country?—Not much since the failure of the crops in the United States. But the Canadians enjoy a privilege from our Government which we do not enjoy, nor would we even ask for, that is, to grind corn, the produce of other countries, say the United States, or even of Russia or of the Baltic, and send it here as their own produce, at their reduced rate of duty.

15358. When the Canadian flour comes into this country at the reduced rate of duty, are they not obliged to certify in some way that it is Canadian flour made of Canadian wheat?—No; only to certify that it is the manufacture of the Canadas; it is not necessary to say the produce. In fact flour, the produce of foreign wheat, is allowed to come into the country upon the same terms as the growth of the Canadas, provided it is manufactured there. There is nothing to hinder our sending out any foreign wheat, getting it manufactured at the Canadas, or at Jersey, or Guernsey, and getting it brought here into bond; it is only English manufacture that is prohibited.

15359. Have you any other observation to make to the Committee?—The only thing I wish to say is this; that as our fellow subjects are allowed to manufacture at the cost of the agriculturists in some measure, it seems hard that we should not be able to do it, when it is rather a benefit to the agriculturists than any thing else.

"The PETITION of the MERCHANTS and others interested in the GRAIN TRADE at the port of *Plymouth*,

"Respectfully sheweth,

"That there are at the present time 560,000 quarters of foreign wheat, and 134,000 barrels of foreign flour under the King's lock, which at a moderate calculation is valued at upwards of one million sterling, and that your petitioners believe were it liberated a great proportion of it would be laid out in the purchase of English wheat, to which the present

low

low prices would be a strong inducement, and thus by taking the surplus out of the market tend to increase prices. Mr. *George Frean.*

"That the knowledge that there is such a large stock of foreign corn on hand induces the farmer at times to push his produce prematurely on the market, from a fear that in the event of a rise in price, from any disaster happening to the crops, or other contingency, the heavy stock of foreign wheat, &c. will be brought forward and depress prices. 13 May 1836.

"That for several years past there has been a large trade carried on from the ports of Dantzic, Hamburgh, Copenhagen, &c. from the United States of North America, and from the British Channel Islands, for supplying the British West Indies, Newfoundland, and South America with flour and biscuit; and at the present moment, as your petitioners are informed, encouraged by the prohibiting system of our laws, large additional steam-power mills are erecting in those countries for increasing the supply of those articles for exportation; and your petitioners beg further to represent, that when British ships go to Hamburgh and other ports for flour and biscuit for the supply of our colonies, they at the same time take considerable quantities of beef, pork, butter, and other agricultural produce, and articles of foreign manufacture, from the same places, thus depriving the British agriculturists and manufacturers of their accustomed demand for those articles.

"That the United States of America export annually upwards of a million barrels of flour, much of it to British dependencies, and to places that would take these articles from Britain if we could supply them on equal terms; also, that, at the present moment, bonded wheat is 35 to 40 per cent. lower in England than wheat of the same quality in the United States, and that freights from hence to the West Indies and Brazils, where ships go mostly in ballast, are always at a less rate than from America, all which evidently shows that England could not only supply those colonies on equal, but on considerably lower terms than is now done.

"That your petitioners are also informed, that the manufacture of foreign wheat in bond for exportation is allowed in France, and now proceeding there with considerable activity, and if the prohibition should be continued in this country, the wheat in bond here will probably be sent abroad to be manufactured, and we shall exhibit the singular anomaly of throwing into the hands of foreigners an advantageous branch of business, which might be carried on by ourselves with manifest advantage to many classes of the community, and with injury to none

"That it appears to your petitioners the remedy for these evils is simple and easy to be carried into practice, and for which there is a precedent in the Grinding Act of 1834, 5 Geo. 4, c. 70, the principle of which is, for every specified quantity of foreign wheat delivered out of bonded warehouses, there shall be a commensurate quantity of flour returned in a limited specified time into bond, for the purpose of being exported.

"That a similar provision should extend to the flour now in bond, which, not being fit for bread by reason of its being out of condition, might be advantageously used in making paste and starch for our manufacturers, and other purposes, and the same quantity of British flour replaced in bond for exportation.

"That thus, not only without injury to the British agriculturists, but with positive benefit to them, might the holders of foreign wheat and flour be relieved from the pressure of a burden which in many instances threatens to deprive them of its whole value, and if a permanent measure facilitating the manufacture of foreign wheat and flour were found to be desirable after the result of the experiment, or that now in bond were ascertained, it might become an important public benefit.

"That the circumstances at the present moment are particularly favourable for having this legitimate branch of commerce restored to this country, and whilst benefiting its colonies and shipping, would be adding to the employment of capital and of productive labour. Your petitioners therefore respectfully but most earnestly request that your honourable House will be pleased immediately to take this subject into your consideration, and, either by introducing a Bill into Parliament sanctioned by His Majesty's Government, facilitate its passing into a Law, or that the same be forthwith referred to a Committee for inquiring into the allegations herein set forth."

Mr. *William Blacker*, called in; and Examined.

15360. *Chairman.*] WHERE do you reside?—In the town of Armagh. Mr. *W. Blacker.*

15361. What is your occupation?—I have the management of several large estates under the proprietors.

15362. Will you state whose estates?—The Earl of Gosford, Lord Bangor, Colonel Close; and I have likewise the property under the Commissioners of Education, the Dungannon School estate.

15363. In what part of Ireland are those estates situated?—Lord Gosford's estates and Colonel Close's are in the county of Armagh; Lord Bangor's in the county of Down, and the Dungannon School estate in the county of Tyrone; Lord Gosford has also an estate in the county of Cavan.

15364. Can you state what is the condition of the agriculturists upon those estates, as compared with what it was three years ago?—In all the flax-growing counties, I think the condition of the tenantry has greatly improved.

Mr. *W. Blacker.*

13 May 1836.

15365. To what do you attribute that improvement?—To the very high return that the flax crop makes to the cultivator.

15366. Has the flax crop been substituted for the wheat crop?—In a great degree.

15367. Do the farmers on those estates occupy large or small farms?—Almost all small farms; there are some of a larger description on Lord Bangor's estate, but still they are what would be called in this country very small farms; 50 acres would be reckoned a large holding. The average of the county of Armagh does not exceed eight acres in the low lands; in the mountainous part they are larger.

15368. What is the quality of the soil?—The soil is very variable; in some parts of it there is clay land, and others rather of a light description.

15369. What is the usual mode of cropping?—Upon Lord Gosford's and Colonel Close's estates, I think they are getting now into the four-course rotation, and likewise on Lord Bangor's; in fact, all those under my own direction are coming very fast into that mode of cultivation, and the neighbouring farmers are taking it up also. In our part of the country they are by degrees improving in their mode of farming; but the general practice of the north of Ireland is to run out the land by successive corn crops, and then to leave it to rest till it is restored to some degree of fertility.

15370. What is the four-course system which you have recommended?—In the beginning the crop for manure is either potatoes or turnips; after that there is either wheat, oats, barley, or flax, according as the different crops may appear most likely to repay. After that there is generally clover and rye-grass for soiling the cattle, and that is again ploughed up for another crop of grain; so that under the four-course rotation one half of the land must be constantly under grain crop, and the other half under green crop.

15371. Do you manure for the potato crop?—Always.

15372. And again for the wheat crop?—No, the manure for the potato crop will always give a crop of wheat; in fact, a better crop of wheat than if the manure was put on with the wheat: lime is sometimes harrowed in with the seed, when wheat is taken after flax.

15373. When you grow a crop of flax, there is no return in the shape of manure?—In the shape of manure, there is not, and therefore it would not do to be cultivated to the same extent as grain; but in each farm there may be a proportion of flax, without injury to the soil, by always following the practice of sowing clover and grass-seed with the flax; and it is by many degrees the best crop for laying down land with. It is soon pulled, and the grass and clover-seeds are benefited by the free circulation of air about them.

15374. Can you state the expense of cultivating the flax crop?—The cultivation of one acre of flax, including the seed, generally amounts to the expense of about 4*l.* 12*s.*, and the seed amounts to 1*l.* 6*s.* or 1*l.* 10*s.*, according to the price. I should calculate that the cost of labour is seven or eight times as much as for a crop of wheat; for the information of the Committee, I give the particulars.

Employment given in Cultivation of an Acre of Flax.	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Man and horse one day harrowing	–	3	–
Quarter of a day ditto, rolling	–	–	9
Weeding, from first to last, four women eight days	–	16	–
Pulling, 14 women at 6*d.* per day	–	7	–
Carriage to water and steeping, two men and a horse	–	5	–
One man attending to the flax when in steep	–	1	–
Taking out of water, two men one day	–	2	–
Taking to spread ground, two men and one horse	–	5	–
Spreading, six women	–	3	–
Lifting off the grass, two women	–	1	–
Drawing to mill, two men and one horse	–	5	–
	£. 2	8	9

This would be as near as possible the average expense of the crop, supposing it after a crop of potatoes cultivated in the *ridge* way; if it is after potatoes in *drill*, the expense would be about 7*s.* more; and if after ley, would be 12*s.* to 15*s.* more; the seed costs from 1*l.* 6*s.* to 1*l.* 10*s.*, and the rent may average 1*l.* to 1*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* per acre. If the crop is *hand* scutched, it would employ a woman, I should think, four or five weeks, according to the weight of the crop; but this is generally done at

at the mill, where there is one at a reasonable distance. The scutching is 10*d.* a stone at the mill, but is not included in this calculation.

15375. Can you state the acreable produce?—I look upon it that the average produce would be about 4 cwt.; a quarter of wheat and a hundred weight of flax are very nearly upon a par in regard to the produce of an acre.

15376. What has been the price per hundred weight in the last year?—It has varied very much according to the quality; some has been sold as high as 13*s.* and 14*s.* a stone for very fine flax; other qualities down to less than half that. The stone is 16 lb.; so that there are 7 stone to a cwt.; flax has answered remarkably well the last two seasons, owing to the failure of the continental crop of flax.

15377. In consequence of the high price of flax a greater quantity of flax has been grown?—An amazingly greater proportion.

15378. And much less wheat?—Much less wheat this year. I do not think there is more than an eighth of the quantity of wheat in the flax-growing parts of Ireland, as far as I can judge from the county of Armagh.

15379. Previous to the failure of the foreign flax, was there much flax grown in that part of Ireland?—Formerly, before mill-spinning was introduced, it was a regular crop in every farm, and the market for it was the demand for the hand-spinner; but when the hand-spinner was driven out of the trade by the mill-spinner sending the yarn so much cheaper, then the home demand for the flax crop was at an end. Then the mill-spinner becoming a wholesale purchaser, found it his interest to resort to the Continental markets, and of course supplied himself from Russia and Holland, where he could get it upon lower terms than it could be raised in the North of Ireland. The consequence of that has been that the market for home-grown flax has been destroyed, and the home growth was almost entirely knocked up about three years ago. It was perhaps not one-fourth what it formerly was; but upon the failure of the continental crop, then the orders from the Dundee mills came to the north of Ireland to make up the deficiency of the foreign importation, and that raised the price so high that, together with the low price of wheat, it induced all the country people to turn their land to the cultivation of that crop; and I think if the crop proves of good quality there will be value for nearly three millions sterling in the ground this year, at the prices which have ruled for the last 18 months.

15380. There is no duty on foreign flax now?—I believe none.

15381. When was it taken off?—I do not know; there has been no duty in my recollection. It was prohibited in the war by the circumstances of the country, and there was no great demand for foreign importation in the north of Ireland, for all the home-spinners preferred their own growth, and there was not then the demand for foreign flax which the mill-spinners have now created.

15382. Mr. *Handley.*] You are not aware that a protecting duty of 4*s.* 6*d.* existed a few years ago?—I rather think not; it is not stated in the public documents. I do not think there has been any protecting duty on flax for a considerable number of years; the impression upon my mind was, that there had been a protecting duty on flax, but on searching I could not find any trace of it.

15383. Earl of *Lincoln.*] In the farms that you spoke of, varying from 50 to 8 acres, are they farmed by labourers or by the tenants?—They are chiefly farmed by the small farmer and his family, where the quantity of land is very much diminished; but there are even less than five acres held by people that call themselves farmers. Such a man looks for employment for a certain portion of his time, to work upon the roads, or with any gentlemen in the neighbourhood, or any task-work that he can get.

15384. Then a system of agricultural labour similar to that of England is scarcely known in Ireland?—Scarcely known.

15385. Do the farmers in order to assist in paying their rent let out a portion of their house to artisans, such as carpenters and blacksmiths?—Occasionally people may have lodgers who are weavers; I think that is the chief employment of those who take houses in that way; they take a room and put up a loom in it; or if they are married they may perhaps take a small house and garden.

15386. Even in the case of a farmer holding 50 acres, does not he employ any daily labourers?—He must occasionally; perhaps he has a couple of farming servants, and occasionally in getting in his crop, or in the harvest, he will require additional assistance, and then those small people get a few days work.

Mr. *W. Blacker.*

13 May 1836.

15387. Even in those large holdings the employment of one or two labourers depends principally upon whether a man has a family or not?—In a considerable degree. The extent of his extra assistance must depend upon what he has in his own family.

15388. Mr. *Young.*] If a man has so large a farm as 50 acres, has not he generally one or two hired servants in his house, and a cottier labourer besides in his employment, to whom he gives half an acre of ground for potatoes?—Yes; but they seldom give them half an acre; it is generally a garden of half a rood or a rood, for potatoes and a few cabbages.

15389. Mr. *Cayley.*] Your observation has extended beyond the sphere of your actual occupation as agent of the various parties you have named?—The observation I have made as to the general practice of running out the land embraces a large portion of the country.

15390. You are generally acquainted with the whole of Ireland, are not you?—I am acquainted with a great part of it, not particularly, but by travelling through it.

15391. Are you a practical farmer yourself?—I am not a farmer myself, my attention has been turned merely to improving the mode of farming in others.

15392 Did you ever study farming in England or in Scotland?—Never.

15393. Did you not, before you attempted to improve the system of cultivation in Ireland, make a study of the English and Scotch system?—I devoted a good deal of time and attention to the consideration of the subject, and the result of my consideration was that the increase of manure was the true source of riches to the farmer, and I bent my attention principally to that subject, and not exhausting the land.

15394. You have written upon the subject?—I have written two small treatises upon it, and one upon a more extended scale upon the claims of the landed interests to legislative protection, all which are to be had at Ridgway's, Piccadilly.

15395. What are the points that you particularly dwelt upon in the first publications?—The advantage of house-feeding, and of thereby keeping the land constantly in heart by the manure thus obtained. The advantage of house-feeding cattle, and not allowing them to range over the pasture and over the stubble ground in search of food, is almost beyond belief.

15396. Were there any other points you alluded to?—There were other points, but I think the house-feeding and the keeping the ground clean and draining are the most important points that a farmer's attention can be directed to.

15397. In your opinion could the cultivation of flax be much extended in Ireland?—To a large extent.

15398. Do you think it would in some degree supplant the growth of wheat?—Certainly, not of wheat only but it would supplant the growth of grain generally to a very great extent as may now be seen.

15399. Do you think it can become a considerable crop?—I do; it may be cultivated to a certain extent upon every farm.

15400. Does not it impoverish the land?—I do not think that a crop of flax, and a crop of grain after it, is as bad upon the land as two crops of grain, but it is subject to this objection, that it does not yield any straw to increase the quantity of manure; that is the chief objection to the crop.

15401. Does not that involve the necessity of purchasing a considerable quantity of extra manure?—By growing only a limited extent of it, and making a practice of laying it down with grass seed and clover, which is used in house-feeding the cattle the succeeding summer, I think a certain quantity may be grown, and yet quite sufficient manure made; and I am quite certain in this way abundance of flax could and would be raised for every purpose, if it was protected to the same extent as grain now is, to which protection it seems to me equally entitled.

15402. You were understood to say that the great stimulus to flax-growing was the failure of the crop abroad; is that source of stimulus likely to remain?—Certainly not; the Russian grower can undersell us, and will destroy the home growth again as he did before, if it is left without protection.

15403. Mr. *Young.*]—Was not there a change in the American tariff which produced a demand for linen?—A demand for linen was thereby created, but that would not have affected the growth of flax with us if the continental crop had not failed.

15404. Mr. *Cayley.*] Can you state the cost of cultivation of an acre of wheat in Ireland as it is at present cultivated?—It is very trifling compared with the cost

of

of the cultivation of flax; wheat generally with us succeeds a crop of potatoes, and most commonly those potatoes are put in in what is called the lazy bed way—that is, in ridges—therefore the land is in a state of preparation for a wheat crop, and they have merely the harrowing-in the seed, and the work is done.

Mr. *W. Blacker.*

13 May 1836.

15405. Will you state the whole course, beginning with the lazy bed potato crop, and going on to the end of the rotation; and state also the amount of the in-comings?—I have not prepared that, but I will prepare it to-morrow.

ROTATION and PRODUCE of a five acre farm.

A.	R.	P.	
1	1	–	of potatoes produce about 450 to 500 bushels in all.
–	1	–	of turnips produce from eight to ten tons.
–	3	–	of clover and rye grass } fit to feed a couple of cows all summer, and allow of
–	1	–	of vetches - - } some hay being saved for winter.
2	2	–	of grain, or part flax.—The usual produce where land has been enriched by cultivation under this system, would be 38 to 40 bushels of wheat, and 45 to 46 of oats or barley per acre; part of this grain is on the clover ley.
5	–	–	

Under this mode of cultivation, the produce of the two cows will fully pay the rent of the entire land, and leave sufficient milk for the use of the family, supposing it to consist of seven persons; by which means the produce of the grain, the profit on keeping one or two pigs, and the benefit of any outdoor employment or weaving, or any other domestic earning becomes available for the support of the family; and those who have adopted this course of cropping are visibly improving in their circumstances annually. After the vetches a crop of rape is sown, which comes in for soiling in April, and is off the ground in time for potatoes or turnips. To show the progress of the system I have recommended, I annex the statement of Mr. Anderson, the agriculturist on the Richhill estate, in county of Armagh, as given by him at the last Markethill farmers' dinner, with the weight of the crops viewed for premiums.

Mr. ANDERSON's Statement, as Agriculturist on *Richhill* Estate, County *Armagh.*

In 1831, about 20 tenants sowed clover, and about the same number had turnips. The proprietors of the estate offered premiums for turnips, and there were only three competitors in that year.

In 1832, 53 persons sowed clover, and 50 had turnips.

In 1833, premiums were offered for the best clover, and there were 51 competitors holding under 12 acres each. Also, 100 persons had turnips.

In 1834, 156 persons sowed clover, and 256 had turnips, and premiums having been offered for house-feeding, 94 persons house-fed their cattle.

In 1835, 287 persons sowed clover, and 267 have turnips (not including small patches,) 116 persons had vetches, and 119 are now house-feeding their cattle.

The proprietors, to encourage the system of green-crops, and other improvements, and also to add to the comfort of their tenants, have given, at different times, large quantities of lime and seed gratis, and many pecuniary grants.

Mr. GREER's Statement.

TURNIPS Viewed in the Richhill Branch Farming Society, on the 9th and 10th of November 1835.

Names of Competitors.	Length. Width.	Roots.	Tops.	Amt. Total of Roots.				Ditto of Tops.				Total per Rood.				REMARKS.
	Feet.	*Lbs.*	*Lbs.*	*Ton.*	*cwt.*	*qrs.*	*lbs.*	*Ton.*	*cwt.*	*qrs.*	*lbs.*	*Ton.*	*cwt.*	*qrs.*	*lbs.*	
Hampton Pillow, No. 1	16½ by 4¼	85	70	5	17	3	13	4	17	–	7	10	14	3	20	Yellow Aberdeen and Red Norfolk.
Ditto ditto, No. 2	0 — 4¼	78	73	5	8	–	17	5	1	–	25	10	9	1	14	
John M'Quade - -	0 — 5	131	45	7	14	1	16	2	13	–	4	10	7	1	20	White.
John Trotter - -	0 — 4	102	30	7	10	1	2	2	4	–	22	9	14	1	24	White.
William Running -	0 — 4¾	100	54	6	4	–	7	3	7	–	–	9	11	–	7	White.
Robert M'Clatchy -	0 — 4	86	42	6	6	2	22	3	1	3	14	9	8	2	8	White.
John Running - -	0 — 4¾	106	40	6	11	2	1	2	9	2	14	9	1	–	15	White.
Mr. J. M'Clain - -	0 — 5	78	62	4	11	3	22	3	13	–	8	8	5	–	2	Red Norfolk.
Mr. H. Clendenning -	0 — 5	105	35	6	3	3	0	2	1	1	–	8	5	–	–	White.
Dr. Sloan, No. 1 -	0 — 4	70	26	5	3	–	14	1	18	1	6	7	1	1	20	Yellow Aberdeen.
Ditto, No. 2 -	0 — 4	69	43	5	1	2	17	3	3	1	11	8	5	–	–	
Mr. Alex. Anderson -	0 — 4	74	36	5	9	–	2	2	13	–	4	8	2	–	6	Yellow and White.
William Gibson - -	0 — 4¼	76	39	5	5	1	15	2	14	–	11	7	19	1	26	Red and White.
Thomas Wright -	0 — 4¾	97	31	6	–	1	11	1	18	1	23	7	18	3	6	Red and White.
Mr. J. Cox - -	0 — 4¾	106	22	6	11	2	1	1	7	1	5	7	18	3	6	White.
Mr. H. Walker - -	0 — 4½	88	29	5	15	–	27	1	17	3	25	7	13	–	24	Yellow and White.
John Gibson - -	0 — 4	51	36	3	15	–	15	2	13	–	4	6	8	–	19	Red Norfolk.
Lawson Whitlow -	0 — 4¾	71	32	4	8	–	10	1	19	2	22	6	7	2	8	White.
Mr. Crozier - -	0 — 4½	68	27	4	10	1	2	1	15	1	12	6	5	2	24	Yellow Aberdeen.

Mr. *W. Blacker.*

13 May 1836.

CLOVER Viewed on the 8th and 9th of June.

Number.	NAME.	Weight per English Square perch.	Weight per Acre.				REMARKS.
			Ton.	*cwt.*	*qrs.*	*lbs.*	
1	Mr. C. Hampton - - -	246	17	11	1	20	Clover.
2	John Gibson - - - -	231	16	10	–	–	Clover and grass.
3	Robert M'Clatchy - - -	221	15	15	2	24	Clover.
4	Robert Kinney - - -	219	15	12	3	12	Clover.
5	Mr. John Trotter - - -	205	14	12	3	12	Clover and grass.
6	Thomas Greer - - -	205	14	12	3	12	Clover.
7	William Running - - -	204	14	11	1	20	Grass and Clover.
8	John Falloon - - -	202	14	8	2	8	Clover.
9	William Carroll - - -	197	14	1	1	2	Clover.
10	Lawson Whittom - - -	185	13	4	1	4	Clover and grass.
11	William Gibson - - -	174	12	8	2	8	Much grass and clover.
12	Alexander Preston - -	168	12	–	–	–	Much grass and clover.
13	John Running - - -	160	11	8	2	8	Much grass and clover.
14	James M'Clain - - -	147	10	10	–	–	Much grass and clover.

From the foregoing will be seen the large produce which the small farmer obtains when he acquires manure, and this produce has been exceeded in many instances the year before last, there being in the neighbourhood of Markethill some fields which yielded above 50 tons to the statute acre in mangel-wurzel and Swedish turnips, and above 57 tons of Norfolk turnips, including weight of the tops. I have thought it better to give the produce of the crops than to state the money value, which is variable. I have already stated the cost of putting in a crop of flax, putting in an acre of potatoes (not including seed) and taking them out (if there is not far to draw the produce) will be about 3*l.* The expense of putting in a crop of grain after ridge potatoes will be only the harrowing in the seed, and sometimes in wheat the seed is dug *in* as the potatoes are dug *out*; but where this is not done the whole expense will not be more than 4*s.* 6*d.* per acre. The straw is supposed value for taking home the grain and preparing it for market. If the grain crop is on clover ley the expense of ploughing and shoveling up the furrows will bring the expense to about 15*s.* per acre.

15406 Can you state about what is the cost of growing a quarter of wheat; at what price can an Irish farmer bring a quarter of wheat to market, rent excluded?—We go entirely by the hundred weight; but I will prepare such a statement to-morrow. I find it impossible to give any statement that could be practically applied, as the cost of the crop depends so much upon the nature of the cultivation; under a four-course rotation the farmer will have double the land under grain that he will upon an eight-course rotation; and the cost of bringing a quarter of wheat to market, involves the subsistence of the farmer and his family, and the exclusion of rent still further embarrasses the calculation. I should say a small farmer, holding eight to ten acres of arable land, of medium quality, which would in the county of Armagh be let at 20*s.* to 22*s.* 6*d.* per acre, would think himself fairly remunerated by 45*s.* to 48*s.* per quarter; but the quality of the Irish grain is 5*s.* to 6*s.* under the English averages, and 8*s.* to 10*s.* under prime samples.

15407. Has drilling come much into operation in your neighbourhood?—Very little; the drilling of potatoes is making rapid progress in the light lands, but it is not suitable to heavy clays.

15408. Is the drilling of turnips and of corn much practised?—The drilling of turnips is universal, but corn is very seldom practised.

15409. Is turnip cultivation extensive upon the farms?—It is one of those crops that I was anxious to introduce, because house feeding requires that you should have winter food of that description. There is considerable difference of opinion in regard to the comparative merits of turnips and potatoes; as far as my observation goes, turnips are best for keeping the regular stock, and for dairy cows, but potatoes, I am inclined to think, will put on flesh faster. Turnips require nicer cultivation and a better preparation of the soil; accordingly, as cultivation improves, I find they are more esteemed by the small farmers; but in mountain districts, where fuel is plenty for boiling them for the cattle, I think they prefer potatoes, as they do not require that pulverization of the soil which the turnip does. There is a prejudice against turnip butter, but if the milk is churned three times, or even twice a week, the butter will be as sweet as upon the best pasture in summer.

15410. In a farm of fifty acres do you ever see such a thing as a good field of eight or ten acres of turnips?—Our farms are not so large as that, but you might see in Lord Bangor's estate four or five acres; and there are some few in Lord Gosford's, and Colonel Close's also.

15411. When this improved system prevails to a greater extent, will it not tend to diminish the expense of cultivating an acre of wheat?—The better the land is cultivated it reduces the price of the produce, for land in good heart will yield a greater return, and rich land is more easily cultivated than poor land.

15412. Then we may expect that one of the results of improved cultivation in Ireland will be to cheapen the price of produce?—No doubt of it.

15413. What amount of labour per acre is required upon an acre in an arable farm, generally speaking?—In a crop of wheat 4*s.* 6*d.* upon land previously in ridge potatoes; there will be the mere cost of reaping and thrashing afterwards.

15414. How are the wages of labourers now, compared with what they were 10 years ago?—I think the wages of labour are higher at present than they were 10 years ago.

15415. How are they compared to what they were 20 years ago?—I think they are still higher; I think they are as high now as ever they have been at any period.

15416. What are the wages in your district?—The wages paid immediately in my district are 1*s.* a day in summer. Lord Gosford, for whom I act, pays 1*s.* a day the year round; but others reduce it to 10*d.* in winter.

15417. Is that general over the north of Ireland?—In the county of Armagh, I think it is pretty general; the contractors, however, for making the Ulster Canal are obliged, I believe, to give 15*d.* a day, in order to induce people to come to them from a distance.

15418. Speaking of Ireland generally, are you not aware that a very different rate of wages prevails?—Yes, in the county of Tipperary I have seen people working upon the roads, and I understood they could not earn above 6*d.* a day.

15419. Is not the common rate of wages of agricultural labourers about 6*d.* a day in the south of Ireland?—I should imagine that you could get labourers at that rate in remote districts; but where there is any employment brought forward that is a permanent job, you find that they will demand larger wages and obtain it. For instance, Lord Clonbrock began to improve some of the bogs in his neighbourhood, and men there turned out for larger wages that were getting 8*d.* a day, as well as I recollect.

15420. Do you remember a time when the labourers in the south were receiving higher wages?—I cannot say that I was formerly well acquainted with the state of things in the south. It is but a few years that I have turned my attention to agricultural subjects. I was originally a mercantile man.

15421. Will you compare the condition of the tenantry of Ireland now and 20 years ago?—I think they are decidedly better than they were a few years after the peace; in 1816 and 1817 the condition of the poorer classes was very bad indeed.

15422. Are they better than they were before the peace?—I do not think they are.

15423. Do you remember the great state of suffering among the tenantry in Ireland immediately after the peace?—They have been suffering I think for a long series of years.

15424. To what do you attribute that suffering?—To the gradual decline of the prices of agricultural produce.

15425. Has the decline of prices arisen from natural causes?—I would consider the decline to arise from a compound cause; I think the price of agricultural produce, like every thing else, depends in the first place upon the quantity of money there is to buy it, and the facility of getting that money; likewise upon the quantity of produce that is to be sold, compared with the demand, and the price will be in the direct proportion, I should think, of the scarcity of money that is to be laid out and in the inverse proportion of the quantity of the article at market, that is, the *larger* the quantity at market the less nominal price you would get for it, and the *smaller* the quantity of money there is to buy it with, you will buy proportionably more for any given sum.

15426. Was there more money in circulation before the peace than there has been since?—No, doubt of it.

Mr. *W. Blacker.*

13 May 1836.

15427. Do you remember any great contraction of money taking place since the peace?—At the return to cash payments.

15428. Was the return to cash payments a very severe blow to the tenantry of Ireland?—I consider so.

15429. Do you remember whether it had any effect upon the labourers of Ireland?—Not so much, because I think the price of labour at present is as high as it was then; the labourer is better off at this moment than ever he was, for he has provisions cheaper, and he is still getting the same daily pay.

15430. From what means do those wages arise?—I should think from increased cultivation and the prosperity of the manufactures, there is a greater demand for his labour.

15431. Then if the prices of produce have fallen, and the tenant has been very much distressed, how has he been able to pay the same rate of wages that he paid when there was a high rate of prices?—The small farmers do not hire labourers very much; they suffer from the diminution of the price most severely; but the small farmer has very little occasion to hire extra assistants; if he gets his ploughing done, he is able to do the rest. The large farmer, or the gentleman farmer as he is termed in Ireland, who has to do every thing by hired labour, I am afraid, would find it very difficult to realize by grain cultivation the rent which the small farmer would be able to pay him for the land he occupies.

15432. Do you think the Irish labourer has been enabled to relieve himself of the pressure arising out of the resumption of cash payments by emigrating to England?—I cannot say what the result of his visit to England is, but I think he is far better at home now than he was formerly.

15433. When you speak of the effect produced by the return to cash payments, you allude to Mr. Peel's Bill of 1819?—It is generally attributed to that.

15434. What has been the condition of the landlords under this change?—It has been a very severe infliction upon them.

15435. Were not many of them under very heavy fixed incumbrances?—Almost universally.

15436. Did it tend to make them press heavily upon their tenants?—I think it prevented them from being so liberal in their reduction as they otherwise would have been, but the effect from necessity has been to reduce the rent to a great extent, because the poor Irish tenant has no capital to pay any rent that he cannot make out of the land, and therefore it was a matter of necessity to abate, whether the landlord could afford it or not.

15437. Is it one consequence of the pressure of the landlord for a fixed rent, that under a fall of prices the tenant is compelled to sell more of his produce, and to deprive himself sometimes of the natural comforts of life?—No doubt the comfort of the tenant must be reduced, according as he is obliged to part with a greater share of the produce to make up his rent.

15438. In that case there will be the appearance of a greater export from Ireland under decline of price?—There would have to be more sold, no doubt, and it would find its way to this country, I think.

15439. Therefore, if there be an increase of the export from Ireland, it is no necessary consequence of that increase of export that it arises from the prosperity of Ireland, but on the contrary, it may arise out of the adversity of Ireland?—I do not think you can draw a conclusion that the farmer is getting worse from the quantity exported to this country, because the more he can raise off his farm, the more money his farm produces him, and of course his circumstances are improved; he has increased in a most material degree the quantity raised off his farm, and though he may get a lower price, he may indemnify himself by the increased quantity produced.

15440. You mean to say, that by increased industry and increased enterprise and skill, he may overcome the difficulties of his situation?—I do.

15441. But supposing the price of produce to fall, and the quantity of produce upon the farm to remain the same, and his rent to remain fixed, will not some of that part of his produce which he used to reserve for his own comfort, and for his own consumption, be trenched upon, and he be obliged to part with that in order to make up his fixed rent?—Undoubtedly.

15442. Under those circumstances, will there not be an increased quantity of produce sent to some market or other?—Generally speaking, one would say it must, but I do not think that that exactly follows in reference to wheat; the home consumption of wheat has been till lately quite trifling in Ireland. All

the wheat that was grown has for many years come to this country; the poor farmer has very seldom been subsisted upon wheat, and in fact I do not think that many of them would prefer wheat as a constant mode of subsistence; I think that many of them would rather have the potatoes for a constancy, if they have milk and butter; of late years, however, since wheat has become so much cheaper, there is a much larger quantity consumed at home; it seems to be taking the place of oaten bread in a great measure.

15443. Alluding to other parts of his produce, pigs and bacon, do you think he has under any circumstances been deprived of the quantity he would have reserved for his own consumption?—I think it is very probable, under the circumstances stated, this would be the case in very many instances.

15444. Then that has increased the export?—Yes; I think it must, under those circumstances.

15445. Do you think that the pressure of the engagements of the landlords under the fall of prices, has at all tended to increase the difficulties of the tenantry, and to prevent their improving the land as they would otherwise have done?—I do not think it has had that effect; I think the tenantry are attached to the soil, and the difficulty of the landlord abating his rent has led to increased exertions on the part of the tenant to retain his holding, which he can only do by producing more from it.

15446. Then you think that by double industry and double skill, he has been enabled to overcome in some degree the pressure of the Bill of 1819?—In some degree; but I think no abatement on the part of the landlord in regard to rent, would compensate the tenant for the fall of price in produce; if he was to give him the whole rent it would not compensate. The advantage of improved cultivation may be estimated by the answer given to Messrs. Binns & Ottea, Assistant Poor Law Commissioners, by a small farmer on Colonel Close's estate to the following question: "Whether do you think you would have more profit from your farm, cultivating it upon the improved system you are now following, and pay your present rent, or to cultivate it upon the old system, and pay no rent at all?"—"I think I would have most profit by going on the improved system, and be subject to my present rent." Here it appears the small farmer was better off than if the entire rent had been given up, and yet I do not think he was by any means fully compensated for the fall in prices since the war, as might be easily shown.

15447. Should you say that within your knowledge there was any one Bill or Act that ever passed the Legislature that committed so much devastation and destruction upon property and industry in Ireland as that Bill of Mr. Peel in 1819?—I think there was no Bill that had so material an effect in producing difficulties to those people that had fixed incomes. It assisted the monied interests, but I think it was very severe upon those who had fixed incomes, such as rental of estates, and particularly where those estates were involved by different incumbrances.

15448. Was not it also a pressure upon the tenants who had not fixed incomes?—No doubt it affects them in the produce of their farms.

15449. Should you say that the pressure of that Bill had tended at all to alienate the minds of the people of Ireland from their institutions, or to make them wish for changes in the form of Government?—I do not think they are capable of reasoning upon abstract subjects of that kind.

15450. Without any abstract reasoning, will not a state of distress tend to make men dissatisfied?—Unquestionably.

15451. Have you had any means of alleviating the pressure of this Bill of 1819 in Ireland, by the establishment of banks?—Yes; the most decided advantage has been derived from the establishment of joint stock banking companies, and the issue of 20*s.* notes; but still our prices are kept down, because our markets depend upon Mark Lane just as much as any country market in England; therefore our markets are kept down by the want of a 20*s.* note circulation in England.

15452. Do you think it would be an advantage to England to have 20*s.* notes?—Decidedly.

15453. You think the 20*s.* notes in Ireland are decidedly an advantage to the farmers in Ireland, and that they would still be more so if the English farmers had them as well?—I think so, as regards the farmer and manufacturer also.

15454. In speaking of the establishments of banks, do you allude to the Provincial Bank of Ireland in the first instance, and to others established since?—I allude particularly to the Provincial Bank, because it was the first joint stock company

Mr. *W. Blacker.*

13 May 1836.

established, and it had the most general effect; but there was great benefit also from the private banks previously established.

15455. Have not there been some new banks lately established in Ireland?—There have several started up lately.

15456. Was not there one established under the auspices of Mr. O'Connell?—So I have understood.

15457. Was that called the National Bank of Ireland?—I believe it was.

15458. Has not there been one other established since, called the Agricultural Loan Bank?—The Agricultural and Commercial Bank.

15459. How long has that been in existence?—A very short time.

15460. Have you perceived any increased facility of accommodation to the farmers?—Not to the farmers; the small farmers are so remote from such transactions, that I do not think it has had much effect upon them.

15461. Do you think those have tended to improve the state of agriculture in Ireland?—It may have had some effect in that way by promoting greater activity in the manufacturing classes, so as by that means to benefit the farmer by producing a degree of prosperity in the home market; but I do not think the farmers themselves have derived any accommodation from paper discounted by the banks. I should qualify this observation by saying that I allude to the north of Ireland, where the small holders of land are not people that banks would discount for; but I cannot pretend to say that in the south of Ireland the farmers, who have generally large holdings, may not have derived advantage and accommodation from these banks.

15462. Have you known within the last five years any year of greater prosperity to the Irish farmer than the present?—I should say, in my own immediate district that the flax-growers never had so good a year for many years past. In the south of Ireland, where wheat is chiefly grown, and very little of any other crops, I fancy there has been rather an indifferent season. I do not think our crop in Ireland these two years past has been so good as the crop in England.

15463. Taking the agricultural population of Ireland generally, should you say that there is an appearance of improvement in the condition of the farmer within the last two or three years?—I should say there is a decided gradual improvement all over the kingdom for some years past.

15464. Not only an improvement in the mode of cultivation, but an improvement in the physical condition of the farmer?—I think so.

15465. That has been co-extensive with the increased establishment of joint stock banks?—Yes; and decidedly I would say, owing to it very materially.

15466. *Mr. Attwood.*] If the joint stock banks do not lend money to the farmers, how does the establishment of joint stock banks improve the farmer's condition?—They improve the means of the manufacturing interest; for instance, the linen trade in the north of Ireland I consider could not be carried on to a fifth part of the extent if it was not for the accomodation of the banks; this gives a better home market for landed produce, and employs the mechanical and manufacturing population, so that the small farmer has a greater demand for his labour when his own farm does not entirely occupy him. By the issue of 20*s.* notes, capital is undoubtedly increased, and capital appears to me to be the parent of employment, and improves the condition of the operatives of all classes as far as I can judge.

15467. Do you think that in the north of Ireland joint stock banks have been carried to an excess lately?—Not within my knowledge; in the town that I live in, I do not think any have as yet begun business, except the branches of some of the old-established Belfast banks, and the provincial and Bank of Ireland branch banks.

15468. If it should turn out that those banks have been giving excessive accommodation, and stimulating the manufacturers of the north of Ireland to an extent which cannot be permitted, then the benefit which agriculture at present derives from the banks would be temporary also?—I should think the prices of the manufacture are kept down to a wholesome state by the 20*s.* notes being payable in gold; as long as that check is upon the bank I am not afraid of any *over issue*, nor do I see how in the nature of things it can take place.

15469. Do you remember the panic which occurred in England in 1825?—I do.

15470 There were then 1 *l.* notes in England, which were then payable in gold?—Yes, there were 1 *l.* notes issued; but what produced that panic was the failure of the banks. If no banks had been allowed to issue notes, except those who showed

showed a capital that put insolvency entirely out of the question, I think the panic would not have taken place; as well as I recollect, there was no panic in Scotland at that time, on account of the solvency of the banks being beyond suspicion.

15471. You do not think it was the 1 *l.* notes, because they were payable in gold?—No; I fancy that there were numerous instances of failures when there were no 1 *l.* notes, about the year 1794.

15472. Do you remember the great failure of banks in Ireland some years ago?—I could not refer to the particular year; but I remember a period when there were very extensive failures, particularly in the South of Ireland.

15473. Was that the period which left very few banks existing in Ireland, out of Dublin?—I think it destroyed a good many of the southern banks; I think only the Newry bank failed in the north.

15474. You do not recollect when that period was?—I could not mention the year.

15475. Was it about 1820 or 1821?—I should think it was about that time.

15476. Was it a year or two after the resumption of cash payments?—I cannot exactly say.

15477. Is there much land let in Ireland that is let upon lease?—A good deal.

15478. Are there many sub-lettings in Ireland?—There is a good deal in that way still remaining in the north of Ireland, and I believe it exists in a still greater degree in the south; but it is going out of use very much in the north. Whenever an old lease drops, the landlord takes the sub-tenant into his own hands, and continues him as a *head tenant*, that is, holding directly under the landlord.

15479. Upon a system of letting land like that, will not a great fall of prices produce additional derangement and distress?—Certainly; to any man who has to depend on the produce of his farm, which is subject to that fall of price, loss will arise; but I think the small farmer who follows a proper rotation, will pay his rent, when the large farmer cannot.

15480. Where land is let to middlemen, and goes down from the head lease to a second or third or fourth lease, the fall of prices would derange the whole body of men upon the land?—The whole chain.

15481. Was it within your observation that extensive derangements and ruin were produced among this class of people by the fall of prices which followed the return to cash payments?—Yes, I know that the farmers were distressed beyond measure, and that they have received but imperfect compensation from the fall of rent.

15482. Mr. *Miles.*] What has been the general fall of rents from the high period of the war in your district?—From 30 to 40 per cent., perhaps more in cases where they had been greatly advanced.

15483. Is that sufficient to meet the depreciation of prices which has taken place?—By no means, the whole rent is not sufficient; suppose an acre of wheat yields four quarters, worth 6 *l.* a quarter, at the high war price, this would produce per acre 24 *l.* Suppose the reduction from return to cash payments to be $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent, that is one-third of the entire sum or 8 *l.*, which the farmer loses in the value of the crop of one acre, and this is far beyond the proportionate rent of any farm at the highest time.

15484. What is the fall of prices that has been occasioned by the resumption of cash payments?—It is hard for me to apportion the thing so as to state what was owing to one cause and what to another; for I have already stated that it depends upon two elements, a redundancy of the crop and a contraction of the currency, and these causes may unite together to produce a great *fall* in price, or *vice versa*, they may unite to *raise* it, or they may palliate or neutralize the effect the one of the other. I could not therefore state to what extent the contraction of the currency alone has operated to produce a fall of price—when the money market remains unchanged the price depends on the quantity of grain produced in proportion to the demand; and, *vice versa*—the two elements in the calculation, therefore, being variable from time to time, no certain calculation can possibly be made of the precise effect of either.

15485. But still the landlords generally throughout Ireland have not met the depreciation of price which has taken place owing to this concurrence of circumstances?—They could not meet it, for if they made a present of the whole rent they could not compensate for the fall of prices.

15486. Then are the Committee to understand that in the part of the country you are acquainted with the land really cannot pay any rent at all?—I do not say that by any means, but I only say that the whole rent being given up would not

Mr. *W. Blacker.*

13 May 1836.

compensate the tenant for the fall in prices that he has been obliged to undergo. He had perhaps during the war too large a portion of the produce for his own share, and now he may have perhaps too little; nevertheless, by increased exertions and industry, he pays a certain rent, and I have stated that by those exertions I considered he was gradually getting better than he had been at the worst times since the peace.

15487. Mr. *Attwood.*] It would not place the farmer in so good a condition as he was in before prices fell?—No.

15488. If the farmer had continued in that prosperous condition in which he was before the fall of prices, would there not have gone on a very great improvement in the agriculture of Ireland coincident with the continued prosperity of the farmer?—I doubt it very much, because we have a saying which I think there is a great deal of truth in, that an increased rent is perhaps the best manure that can be laid upon land. The fact is that the difficulty of the farmer led him to make exertions to keep himself in his farm by better cultivation and increased produce; which I doubt whether he would have done had those prosperous times continued; nevertheless, there is no doubt that to the industrious part of the community the high prices offered a great encouragement and tended to a very great extra production, from the bringing into cultivation large portions of land *not* before cultivated and improving the cultivation of that which *had.*

15489. Do you consider that when we see a greatly increased produce of the land in Ireland it does not follow that that is an evidence of the greater prosperity of the farmer that cultivates the soil?—I think it would be very hard to draw a conclusion either way from the circumstance of the increased produce; but if it was anything I would say that the extra produce produced from the soil was more likely to tend to cause better living and more comfort to the tenant than the reverse; at the same time, if the increased produce is not more than sufficient to enable him to meet his difficulties, he may be distressed enough with the finest crops that the land could possibly be made to produce.

15490. Do you consider that the farmer is now in a worse condition than he was during the war?—I do not think he has the same share in the produce of the land that he had at that time.

15491. Whatever the proportionate share may be has he as great a quantity of produce as a consumer as he had during the war. Do his family and himself subsist as well and acquire property as easily as they did during the war?—I do not think they acquire what they get so easily.

15492. Do they acquire as much?—I think not; the increased cultivation cannot entirely compensate them for what they have lost in price.

15493. Mr. *Miles.*] Does it nearly?—It cannot be said to do it nearly. I think that of late years, except just the wheat districts where they were limited to that crop, they are better off now than they were. In the north of Ireland they certainly are better off than elsewhere, which is owing to the flax crop, but there is, generally speaking, I think a gradual improvement going on more or less almost everywhere from the effect of greater skill and industry.

15494. When was the first establishment of joint stock banks in Ireland?—Ten or twelve years ago.

15495. Within what time have they increased so much?—Within these four years past. I believe the Northern bank was the first that was established.

15496. The joint stock banks do not advance money without security?—Certainly not.

15497. *Chairman.*] You spoke of the improvements that have been introduced into the management of some of the farms, have you ever paid any attention to the farming of England?—Yes, I have, in travelling through the country; and I have read the evidence published of the different farmers examined before this Committee. I saw on my way up here from Liverpool six horses drawing a harrow upon not very heavy land which I think was the most ridiculous waste of labour that I ever beheld in my life.

15498. In what county was that?—I believe it was in Oxfordshire.

15499. Did you observe any wet clay land in your way from Ireland?—Yes, I observed some.

15500. Do you think that clay land could be improved by the management you have adopted in Ireland?—No doubt of it. We have as heavy clays in many parts of Ireland as anywhere to be met with, particularly in the Dungannon School estate,

estate, which I mentioned to be under my management; the soil there approaches to potter's clay, but by the use of lime and trenching up in winter it is made to produce excellent crops of flax, potatoes, wheat and oats: I have also seen mangel wurzel grown upon this soil 13 to 15 pounds weight. If, instead of the rotation of crops, which I have seen stated in the evidence published to be in practise on the heavy clay lands in England, the growth of green food, such as clover, vetches, potatoes and mangel wurzel, were cultivated, and a proper quantity of stock kept to afford plenty of manure, and the land well limed and drained, it would produce three times as much as it does now, for I see by the rotation pursued there is no food grown to support sufficient stock. The stock which I recommend the small farmers on Lord Gosford's estate to keep is one cow for every three acres of arable land, and many of them keep more than this proportion. The large size of the farms in England will not admit of this quantity of stock being kept without an expense of attendance and cartage that would take away the profit; but to the small farmer in Ireland this is attended with no outlay, his wife and family being able to attend to the dairy and house feeding; but the English farmer of heavy clay land might, by the cultivation of potatoes and mangel wurzel, fatten cattle in winter with advantage to a great extent, and by substituting the soiling system in place of pasture, wherever the size of the farm admitted of it; an immense quantity of butter and tallow and flax also might be produced, so as to make the Empire entirely independent of importation in those articles, and the production of tallow, would lead to a reduction in the price of flesh meat. For the information of the Committee I beg to state the result of experiments made on the fattening of cattle with potatoes, mangel wurzel and turnips; through the kindness of Mr. Prentice, agent to the Earl of Caledon, I have been favoured with an accurate experiment made by his Lordship's steward, Mr. Olephant, marked (A); and I also beg to submit a letter from Mr. Dawson of Forkhill, who has had great experience in fattening for the Liverpool market marked (B); and a statement from Thomas Knox Armstrong, Esq., marked (C).

Paper (A.)

Tabular view of an experiment on feeding cattle on different kinds of food as tried at Caledon in winter 1835–6.

Food.	Weight, Nov. 25, 1835.			Weight, March 29, 1836.			Increase.			Food used per week.
	Cwt.	*qr.*	*lb.*	*Cwt.*	*qr.*	*lb.*	*Cwt.*	*qr.*	*lb.*	
Potatoes -	9	–	–	11	–	14	2	–	14	8 cwt.
	9	1	–	11	2	–	2	1	–	
Mangle wurzle	8	2	14	10	1	–	1	2	14	10½ cwt.
	8	2	–	10	–	14	1	2	14	
Turnip - -	8	2	–	9	1	14	1	3	14	16 cwt.
	7	2	–	9	–	–	1	2	–	

Weight of different crops as estimated by weighing a given number of yards of 28 inch drill, as a fraction of an imperial acre.

Copper dun potatoes - - - - - 12 $\frac{1}{10}$ tons.
Mangel-wurzel - - - - - - 25 $\frac{1}{20}$ tons.
Purple top Swede Turnip - - - - 30 $\frac{1}{4}$ tons.

A. Oliphant.

Paper (B.)

My dear Sir, Dundalk, May 10, 1836.

It is almost impossible to form a correct data as to what quantity of meat a regular proportion of any sort of artificial food will produce, so different are some animals found in their feeding from others; I must therefore content myself with giving you my opinion founded upon observations made on the average run of cattle which I have been in the habit of feeding, and those were heifers of the best description, and consequently more easily fattened.

I have had experience both with turnips (Globes, Norfolks and Aberdeens) and also potatoes steamed and boiled; and as I have already told you in a former correspondence, I am still in favour of the latter food as being the best for putting up meat.

The average produce of our well managed farms in Louth may be taken at 80 barrels (of 32 stone) to Irish acre in drill, or 50 barrels to the English acre, being 16 tons for the Irish, and 10 for the statute acre; but mind, I speak of good crops, for the average of the small farmers produce in ridges falls short of what I say, save in very few cases. I consider that with the above produce, four prime heifers can be fed on the Irish for five months, and that they will generally gain in that time two cwt. of beef each, which taken at 50*s.* per cwt. would give 5 *l.* a beast or 20 *l.* the acre, which at the same rate will be 2 ½ heifers

Mr. *W. Blacker.*

13 May 1836.

heifers to the English acre, or 12*l.* 10*s.*; however, this rate of profit is by no means certain, for often 4*l.* a head is not gained for the five months feeding, though this season double that sum has been made by persons who have fed; unfortunately for me, I put none up last winter, consequently, I cannot partake of the good fortune of my neighbours. From the above calculation you will perceive that little more than a pound and a half of meat is gained daily, which, taking potatoes at 1*s.* per cwt., costs the feeder 6*d.* for the potatoes alone, and more if the beast consumes beyond four stone (½ cwt.), which they often do. I have generally given meal seeds or ground barley tailings along with the boiled potatoes, and sometimes a small quantity of ground oats. Oaten straw, and seldom hay of any sort, on these extra articles not much value can be placed; though, if all is put together, I think 1*s.* per day will be the cost of feeding. Supposing potatoes to be at the rate I mention, and that rate is better to the farmer when fed off than 1*s.* 4*d.* in the market. In the above statement I do not bind myself to say, that a beast will not put up more than two cwt. of beef in five months; many will be found to give more; but I think that will be the general average, and I should be quite satisfied with that produce, or even less.

With respect to the fattening quality of the three sorts of turnips above named, my experience has taught me, that they will not raise beef in the same proportion that boiled potatoes will; except in one instance I never could get my turnip cattle finished as I wished, although I gave hay, which of course added to the expense. I never had Swedes in much quantity my ground being rather light for them; but from what I have seen and heard from others, I have no doubt they are fully equal to potatoes, and will throw up as much meat in the end, provided hay is given and sheaf oats. I may here remark, that all the cattle fed on raw potatoes and turnips in Meath and West Meath, get sheaf oats in great quantities, and no value seems so be placed to that additional food, though in fact, it adds considerably to the expense.

Although I do not consider the Globe, Norfolk or Aberdeen turnip as equal to finishing cattle, they are quite sufficient to begin and to be continued for two months, following with Swedes to complete. I have never tried the experiment, but I am sure that an acre of turnips (not Swedes) would pay as much, given in small quantities to store cattle, as the potatoes give in fattening, to the acre, and an equal quantity of manure would be obtained. I farm in a populous district where the stealing of turnips is common, consequently, I cannot try this latter experiment as I wish; I am driven more into the cultivation of potatoes than I otherwise would be, if my neighbours would let my turnips alone.

I have never fed on mangel wurzel, consequently I am unable to give you information of my own knowledge about it; but from what I have heard from others, I feel convinced it is not either equal to boiled potatoes or Swedes for fattening; but for milk it is decidedly superior, and as you know, the acreable produce and weight much above any crop that can be raised. I regret I never tried it, as I think it should do as much as any other root in fattening if we take great produce in weight into consideration, and it must always be a leading one with farmers. I hope yet to put the matter to the test, and to be able to give you a true result. I found my cattle to consume eight stone of turnips daily, or a ton every 20 days; whereas a ton of potatoes would nearly last a beast 40 days, and much more beef would be gained from the latter; this may afford you some grounds for further calculation. The limits of a letter preclude me saying more on a subject that I could enlarge upon much were I under examination before the Committee, as well as give much local farming information, obtained from practical knowledge of seven years, and under very trying circumstances.

I fear I have not met your wishes fully; but for the reasons above stated, and not wishing to delay my reply, I am obliged to curtail my ideas.

Believe me, your's truly,

Walter James Dawson.

Wm. Blacker, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

Paper (C.)

STATEMENT from *Thomas Knox Armstrong*, Esq.

Suppose a cow five cwt. when put into stall cost 7*l.*, and fed for five months, sold for 14*l* and took 225 bushels of potatoes to feed her, and each bushel put on about a pound and a half of meat; and said cow will turn out about six stone of fat.

Suppose a pig to be about six score weight cost 1*l.* 10*s.*, and fed for six months will weigh 16 score, and 91 bushels of potatoes will feed it for the above time, and each bushel will put on two pounds of meat at an average of about two stone each day. Turnips will not put on within a stone and a half as much fat or tallow.

My steward bought a pig in November 1835 for 7*s.* 6*d.*, and sold him 1st December 1836, which pig weighed 19 score seven pounds payable, and amounted to 6*l.* 6*s.*

It will appear from Mr. Olephant's statement that potatoes fatten in the shortest time, but it appears to me doubtful whether they or sweder turnips fatten cheapest; in this respect there is great difference of opinion; but there can be no doubt the potato crop would be a most valuable addition to the rotation upon heavy clay lands as a cattle crop, and tend, by the manure thereby acquired, to improve the nature of the soil in a most remarkable degree. The potato called the cup potato will grow upon a good clay soil with the assistance of lime alone and no other manure.

manure. Butter, tallow and flesh meat might thus be produced in almost any quantity, and the land prepared for the growth of flax to a certain extent without deteriorating the soil, and with a return to the grower much beyond what a wheat crop would yield.

15501. Could flax be grown upon that clay land?—I think it could be very well applied to that purpose, and to potatoes, and mangel wurzel, as I have said; I do not think there can be anywhere heavier clay than the estate I have just alluded to, and all these crops are there very successfully cultivated.

15502. Can you suggest any measure, which the Legislature can pass, for the advantage or relief of the farmers?—Their difficulties are at present, I think, owing to the low price of produce, and that, so far as I am a judge, arises from the contraction of the currency and from the redundancy of produce; and I would remedy the one by an issue of 20*s.* notes payable in gold, the Bank giving such security for its solvency that no loss could possibly arise to the public, and then leave the Bank to take care of itself. I have explained this matter fully in the publication, entitled "The Claims of the Landed Interests to Legislative protection," and also offered a suggestion which I think would effectually protect the banker from any sudden drain of specie arising from an unfavourable exchange, and enable him to avoid the necessity of contracting his discounts, which, under such circumstances, adds most materially to the public injury; but the subject cannot be done justice to in a verbal detail. The contraction of the currency being met in this way, I would cure the redundancy of grain by applying some portion of the land to the growth of other crops. That is the natural way to cure a redundancy of any crop, to reduce the growth of it, and that can only be done by protecting other agricultural produce in the same way as corn is protected. I do not consider that the late rise in the price of wheat at all proves that the farmer will be better off next year than he was last; if there is really a redundancy in the general produce of corn in the empire, the limited cultivation of wheat this season, which now enhances the price of it, will merely throw the redundancy into barley or oats, and if there is a good crop the farmer will lose by those crops what he makes by wheat, just as he has this year lost by wheat what he gained by them; and if there is a bad crop, which seems not unlikely, he will be worse than ever, for the ports will be open, and he will have little to sell and get a lower price for it; there seems to me no real cure but that suggested of curing the redundancy by turning the land to the production of other things.

15503. Would you suggest then that flax should be protected?—Yes, flax and butter and tallow.

15504. There is a duty on foreign butter, is there not?—Yes, which has been attended with great advantage to the farmers, and to the revenue, as I have likewise shewn in the publication referred to; but the quantity imported is greater now than when the article was free.

15505. What duty would you propose on foreign butter?—I think it might be 10*s.* per one cwt. more without being a prohibition.

15506. What duty would you impose on foreign flax?—I am an advocate for a fixed duty on corn, and one cwt. of flax, and a quarter of wheat, being each about the same rateable proportion of the produce of an acre, I think one cwt. of flax ought to have the same protection as a quarter of corn, and if a fixed duty was not imposed I would be for adopting the same graduated scale; if this was done I have not the slightest doubt that there would be as much land transferred to the growth of flax as now produces two millions of quarters of grain, which would correct the present redundancy.

15507. As you are an advocate for a fixed duty on foreign corn, do you think the present corn laws have not worked well?—I do not go so far as that; they have worked as a prohibition, and, therefore, as far as they go they prove the truth of the principle I advocate, viz. that our soil is fit to produce every thing we want of agricultural produce in the way of grain, or flax, or butter, or any thing else that is suited to our climate.

15508. Do you mean by a fixed duty, such a duty as would prevent any foreign produce coming in?—I think that might be done with safety, but the duty I propose is not an actual prohibition, I would fix it much under the present rate of duty that wheat would be liable to at this moment.

15509. What is your objection to a fluctuating duty?—The objection I have to it is one that I am afraid will be very shortly exemplified—that is, if the ports are opened the grain will immediately come in in such quantities free of duty, that the

Mr. W. Blacker.

13 May 1836.

price will be lowered, and the farmer who has only a short crop to sell will get only half price for that short crop (for the limited period for importation produces a complete glut of the article); now that is contrary to all justice whatever, for if the farmer has little to sell he certainly ought to get something more for it; the whole community ought to participate in the providential visitation, which a bad harvest is, and not to let it be borne by one class of the community only.

15510. What fixed duty would you propose that could be levied in times of scarcity as well as in times of abundance?—I do not think it is necessary in times of scarcity to diminish the duty, because the rate of price will be such as would bring the importation into the country, and the fixed duty will be paid by the foreign grower; the crop will be shipped at so much less on account of the duty, and it will not come out of the pocket of the English consumer.

15511. Do you think a duty of 15*s.* or 20*s.* could be maintained when the price of wheat was at 60*s.* or 70*s.*?—I do most decidedly think that it would not raise the price of grain in the English market in the slightest degree.

15512. What duty would you propose?—It struck me that a fixed duty of 20*s.* a quarter would not be too much; and I would wish the Committee to take this into their consideration, that if you lay on a fixed duty, of course it will be the very best quality of grain that will be imported, because the duty will be lighter upon the good quality than upon the bad one. The quality of that grain that you import will be at least 10*s.* a quarter better than the average which regulates the returns, so that, in fact, it takes 10*s.* almost off the duty that is imposed, because you get an article that is worth 10*s.* more. I have fixed upon 20*s.* because I think it appears evident that the English farmer has, from the late low prices, began to give up growing wheat, less land having this year been devoted to that crop; the foreign grower, however, has for several years, I believe, persisted in its cultivation at prices 20*s.* per quarter under ours, and I think that is a practical proof that he can afford to grow it 20*s.* a quarter cheaper than the English farmer can. As to the cost of bringing it to the London market, it is little more than the cost from the English outports.

15513. Will you explain your reasons why you think that the foreign producer of corn would pay the duty and not the consumer in this country?—I have treated upon the matter in the publication of mine already alluded to, in which I have given a much better account of it than I can do by words, intituled "The Claims of the Landed Interest," published by Ridgway; but I think I may perhaps be able to make it apparent to the Committee. The price of Corn we will suppose is now 23*s.* a quarter in Hamburgh, or 25*s.*; but whatever it may be as soon as the ports are opened, suppose the price is 73*s.* in England, then as soon as that takes place the holder of grain in Hamburgh will no longer take the 25*s.* a quarter there when he can get 73*s.* in England; and the price in Hamburgh will rise to the 73*s.* per quarter, minus the expense and risk of sending it to England; but if there is a duty of 20*s.* a quarter laid on in England, then the quotation of the English price is 73*s.*, minus the 20*s.*, which reduces it to 53*s.* in England. Of course it is supposed to be still the best market that the foreigner can send his grain to, because the present price is from 23*s.* to 25*s.*, and he will send it and pay the 20*s.* duty, and the price of the grain shipped from Hamburgh will be just the 20*s.* less, which if it was not imposed, the foreign merchant would put it in his pocket, as he has done universally when the ports have been opened heretofore.

15514. *Mr. Heathcote.*] What is the present duty on foreign corn?—I believe about 40*s.*, and varies according to the average price.

15515. In which case do you think agriculture would be the best off—with the present duty or with a duty of 20*s*?—It would be much better if we had always good crops to keep the 40*s.* still in force, because that is a prohibition; but the misfortune of the present graduated scale is, that at the time when the farmer wants the protection he does not get it.

15516. Then you allow that with present prices it is better to keep things as they are?—Yes; if the ports are kept shut it would be the most complete protection for the British farmer he could possibly desire against foreign competition; but he wants at present protection against the great import of grain from Ireland, which until the last two years was greatly increased by the land formerly devoted to the growth of flax being almost entirely turned to the growth of grain, and this will be the case again, as it has been only the failure of the flax crop on the Continent which has revived its cultivation in Ireland for the last two seasons.

15517. Are

15517. Are you acquainted with the state of feeling in the manufacturing districts and in the metropolis?—I cannot say that I am acquainted with the feelings of the manufacturing interest, but I have understood from people that have had some little intercourse with them, that the manufacturers were beginning to see that ruining the farmer was not the way to benefit themselves.

15518. Do you think that with the state of feeling there is in some parts of the country, we should ever be able to keep on a duty of 20*s.* when corn rose to a famine price?—I think, unless it was explained to them by those in whom they could confide that they were under an erroneous impression respecting the operation of the duty, they would consider that the 20*s.* duty was paid out of their pocket; but that it is paid by the foreign grower, I have not the slightest doubt, and that they would not get the corn one bit cheaper if the duty were taken off. If there was any doubt as to the possibility of maintaining such a duty of 20*s.* as I propose, owing to the prejudices of the consumers, it might perhaps be better to adhere to the existing graduated scale, until the duty according thereto was reduced by the rise of the market to such a rate as it was thought might be maintained, and let that rate be adopted as a *fixed* duty until prices fell so as to bring the graduated scale again into operation. But to allow a sudden rush of *free* grain as the existing law permits to come into the market when prices rise to any given point, I consider to be ruinous to the farmer and injurious to the best interests of the community, which cannot be promoted by the ruin of such an important class in society. I should be inclined therefore strongly to press the *immediate* necessity of this modification of the existing system (if a fixed duty of *at least* 20*s.* is not imposed), there being in my mind considerable cause to apprehend the want of such a protection may otherwise be felt sooner than many at present suppose; and I think if the graduated scale should be extended to flax, that a similar modification in regard to it would be also desirable. With regard to the idea of allowing a certificate of the export of any quantity of *British* grain to be applied to the liberating of grain on bond, which I have seen stated in the evidence published; I take the liberty to remark, that the privilege of *liberating* a quarter of *foreign* grain whensoever the average price reached that point of the graduated scale at which the fixed duty (under the modification I now propose) should take place, would be such a bonus to the exporter of *British* grain as would be likely to prevent prices ever being depressed to that degree we have lately witnessed. For instance, suppose the fixed duty was, under this arrangement, to be no more than 10*s.* or 12*s.*, the average could scarcely fall below 43*s.* or 44*s.*, because that bonus would reduce the *export* price to 31*s.* or 32*s.*; and on the other hand it could have no injurious influence upon the agricultural interests, as the quantity liberated could never exceed the quantity exported, nor could any be brought into the market until it might be done so by the payment of the duty itself, which would be when prices were considerably advanced.

15519. *Chairman.*] Taking the price of wheat at Dantzic to be 25*s.* a quarter, assuming that the freight from Dantzic to England, and the other charges, would be covered by 5*s.* a quarter, then the wheat would be brought from Dantzic and sold in this country at 30*s.* a quarter. Now supposing there was no duty upon foreign wheat, would not the effect of this considerable influx of foreign wheat at that price bring down the price of English wheat nearly to the same low price?—In the course of a few years it would; it would destroy the English grower most decidedly in the course of a few years; but in the first instance it would not at all make that considerable sensation that I think is apprehended from it, because, although the person that imports here gets his corn cheaper, say at the 30*s.* stated, he will *sell* it at the highest price he can, and he will lower the market as little as he can help; but it will go gradually down, because the foreign market will always fall in proportion to the fall here, as the importer forces sales in order to realize his profits, and therefore he will continue importing, and the thing will go down and down till the home grower will be obliged to give up the cultivation.

15520. Then the consumer of corn in England, in fact, supposing no duty to exist, would buy his corn at a much cheaper rate than he can now?—For some years he would; but he would pay dearly afterwards for that temporary gain.

15521. Then the effect of putting a duty upon foreign wheat is to raise the price of corn to the consumer?—Not in times of scarcity, because the high price in England in a time of scarcity still leaves the English market minus the duty, the best market to which the foreigner can send his grain; but if you threw the trade open, the effect would be that the import into England would by degrees lower the

Mr. *W. Blacker.*

13 May 1836.

price so that the English farmer would be driven out of the market, and then it would be found that the foreigner could not supply the quantity wanted, and things would again mount up to a famine price.

15522. Are you not assuming that there would exist a time of scarcity, which time of scarcity would arise principally from the absence of foreign corn in the English market?—In that case, if the English farmer were ruined, and the continental farmer had a bad crop, and they should find it necessary to prohibit the exportation, there is nothing but starvation that we have to expect in this country if we destroy our own agriculture.

15523. Mr. *Miles.*] Supposing a deficient harvest takes place in Great Britain and at the same time a very good harvest takes place in continental states, supplying us generally with corn, what effect would that have upon the foreign market?—It would raise the foreign market as soon as you opened the English market for importation.

15524. If a fixed duty of 20*s.* were levied, and corn freely admitted, what effect would that have in the British market?—I do not think it would raise the British market in the least.

15525. Then you conceive that the foreigner and corn factor would be contented with a small profit, and would not make the profit, which if no importation took place the English farmer must necessarily make from the scarcity subsisting?—I do not say that they would be *content* to take less money, but they could not help themselves. The English market, minus the duty, would still be the best market they could have; but it could only have this effect, that they would have so much less profit than they otherwise would have; the price in the foreign market would rise so much less than it would do if the English market was not taxed with that duty. If foreign corn can be admitted without duty, the English market is so much better, and then of course the price abroad will rise corresponding with the improvement in the English market; but if you make a quotation of 80*s.* a quarter from Mark-lane, minus the duty of 20*s.* of course that is 60*s.* net, and then the foreign market only rises in proportion to 60*s.*

15526. When it is brought to the consumer it is not brought at 60*s.* but at 80*s.*?—It does not stand the consumers a penny higher, for the importer buys it so much cheaper; the foreign grower gets so much less.

15527. Have we any right to suppose that the corn merchants will so badly conduct their business that they will make an influx of foreign corn to that amount as to lower the markets from 80*s.* to 60*s.*?—The foreign merchant, and the home merchant will all get the highest price that they can; but we are supposing that the English market is 80*s.* and we are considering what effect it will have upon the price at Dantzic, and I say that by 20*s.* duty being imposed you lower the quotation to the Dantzic merchant to the amount of 20*s.*, and he expects only to receive the price of 60*s.* in the London market; of course the price in Dantzic rises so much less; it makes the English market so much the worse for the foreign grower; but as long as there is no better market to go to it can make no difference to the English consumer. My argument assumes that the English quotations regulate the Dantzic or foreign market; if there was any other market better than the English, quotation minus the supposed duty, in such a case the consumer would be affected by the duty to that extent; but where the English market still continues decidedly the best, minus the duty, that duty comes off the foreigner, and does not affect the consumer at all.

15528. At whatever price the corn is admitted into the English market, who pays that price?—The consumer no doubt pays the market price; but the market price will not be raised by the duty; it will be just deducted from the profit of the foreign grower.

15529. Whatever ingredients come into the price of corn, does the consumer pay them or not?—As to where corn comes from, it is no business of his; he pays the market price, and I say the market price will not be raised by the 20*s.* duty as long as the net price here affords the best market that the foreign grower has for his produce.

15530. *Chairman.*] Would not the market price fall if the duty was reduced?—No, but the foreign price would rise; if you take off the duty, the foreigner will raise his demand. If I was an owner of wheat at Dantzic, and the market advanced to 80*s.* here I would not take less in Dantzic than what it would cost me to send it to this market; the 20*s.* duty and freight are merely items in the expense of sending it to this country, and the price will immediately amount to that. It

is as clear as that the price at many of the outports here is just the price at Mark-lane, minus the expense of sending there; and if you take Ireland as an exporting country; if you were to put 5*s.* a quarter upon Irish wheat you would lower the Irish market 5*s.*, because we have no where else to send it.

15531. Mr. *Miles.*] Whatever ingredients enter into the price of corn, does not the consumer eventually pay for them?—I do not think under ALL circumstances he does, because the import prices of corn may be dearer than the market price, and the consumer of corn, will not pay one penny more, though it might stand five times as much to the importer.

15532. Sir *R. Price.*] You are supposing that there is a great deal of scarcity in England?—Yes, in the general part of the evidence, but the last answer is supposing a falling market.

15533. Why do you suppose that the foreign merchant will be willing to take 20*s.* less per quarter than the price that is paid in England?—He will not be *willing* to take one farthing less, but if it is imposed as a duty, he *must* pay that duty before he can obtain the market price.

15534. What should force him to sell his corn?—He is not under any constraint to do it further than that his own interest will always lead him to send his corn to the best market.

15535. But if there be a great scarcity in this country, may he not suppose that by holding out a little longer he may be able to get 80*s.*?—If there was any intimation held out to him, that the 20*s.* duty would be removed under any scarcity or any pressure of famine, no doubt he would speculate upon it; but my proposition is, that it shall be a fixed duty; and I say that the higher the price rises the less reason there is for taking it off, as the higher the price the better it will remunerate the foreigner even paying the duty.

15536. You think therefore that in this instance, contrary to the usual course of trade, the price does not fall upon the consumer, but does fall upon the producer?—I do not think it is contrary to any usual course of trade that things will go to the best market.

15537. Do you conceive that a fixed duty of 20*s.* would be paid in times of scarcity with prices at 80*s.*, and a knowledge on the part of the public that an immense quantity of corn could be imported from foreign parts at a low price?—I cannot say what the Government might feel itself called upon to do, but I am clearly of opinion, that if any clamour were raised, it would be a clamour arising from ignorance on the subject.

15538. Mr. *Young.*] Supposing that clamour were successful, and that the Government in time of scarcity were to take off the 20*s.* duty, do you say that the consumer would not get the foreign corn cheaper?—Little or nothing. If the free import was for a limited time, the market would be glutted at once in such a way as to lower the price very much; but we are comparing a free trade without any duty, and a free trade with a fixed duty, and as a permanent measure I can only repeat my former opinions.

15539. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] Do you recollect the scarcity that occurred in the years 1800 and 1801?—I cannot say that I do.

15540. Did you ever hear the course pursued by the Government of Prussia with respect to the intercourse between Prussia and this country at that time: are you aware that the King of Prussia imposed a revenue duty, against which his merchants remonstrated, and which he declared that he would maintain only during the continuance of high prices in England, and that he would graduate it according as prices rose and fell?—I am not aware of that circumstance.

15541. Supposing that statement to be correct, have we any security that under a recurrence of similar circumstances a similar experiment would not be tried?—Certainly none that I can see.

15542. Then, in fact, does not it follow, from your former evidence, that your fixed duty could not be maintained by the Government at home, and might be indefinitely increased by the powers abroad?—I think it all resolves itself into this, that the grain will go to the best market under any circumstances, that must always take place, and that prohibition now alluded to evidently may take place whether we have any duty or not; the less duty we have, the higher he, the King of Prussia, may raise his tariff, so that it comes to this, that if ever we allow the home growth to be destroyed, we make ourselves dependent upon the will of other nations, and they may starve us, or raise a revenue upon our necessities, according to their pleasure.

Mr. *W. Blacker.*

13 May 1836.

15543. Mr. *Handley.*] Have you ever had any experience of reclaiming the bog lands of Ireland?—A little.

15544. In what part of Ireland?—In the county of Tyrone.

15545. What has been the process that you have pursued?—The process that I have pursued is a very safe one, merely assisting the industry of the poor people who are located in the neighbourhood. I lay out nothing myself, but I lend them every assistance and accommodation that is necessary to make their industry productive.

15546. Is that upon the system that Captain Kennedy has pursued?—It is a little, but not entirely; Captain Kennedy, I believe, was first led to it from some publications of mine upon the subject; but he has entirely the merit of the plan on which he appears to have acted so successfully.

15547. Are you acquainted with Mr. Brownlow's bog reclamation?—Yes, I have been upon it.

15548. Has he been successful?—I do not think he has; he has not been successful in draining. There are parts of the bog lands which are above the water which he has turned into farms, and given portions to the adjoining tenants upon the clay lands, which I imagine will eventually turn out a favourable allotment.

15549. If he has failed, it has been from the great expense of bringing them into a state in which he could let them?—His failure arose from his drainage being unsuccessful; his steam engine was not sufficient to do the work, and the floods overwhelmed his banks; and the land that he had embanked being lower than the level of the lake, the water of course rushed in.

15550. Do you know the expense per acre that he was at where he was successful?—I think he told me he had sunk 10 or 11,000*l.*, but on how many acres, I do not exactly know.

15551. Is it your opinion that, under an improved system, the bog lands of Ireland may be successfully cultivated?—I think so, certainly, if they are done judiciously; I have no doubt of it, considering the great demand there is for land.

15552. Are you acquainted with the bog improvement in Westmeath by Mr. Featherstone?—Yes, I had the curiosity to go and see it.

15553. Do you consider that successful?—I do; he has advantages beyond most gentlemen improvers, for he is largely in the trade as a grazier, and therefore he purchases the cattle, and employs it himself in that way, and I believe profitably; but I would not recommend to any landlord to reclaim soil of that kind to cultivate it in his own hands, for I am sure it would be attended with loss. I do not think a gentleman can cultivate even good land without a certain degree of loss, and I am sure he must lose by cultivating bad.

15554. Probably, the course you would recommend would be merely to bring the bog, by the application of capital, into that state that he might underlet it?—That he might dispose of it to tenants; and he would have to assist the poor population, who would be the applicants for those lots, with some little capital, or means of making their industry productive.

15555. Looking at the present condition of Ireland, do not you think the prospect of employing capital upon the reclamation of waste lands is a matter of great moment to the wealth of that country?—I do think it is of paramount importance.

15556. Are you of opinion that there is a sufficient opportunity for the reclamation of waste lands to give full employment to the populatien of Ireland, without having recourse to emigration?—I do most decidedly think that we have not men enough, instead of having a superabundance.

15557. Can you state to the Committee any successful experiments of bog reclamation that have come within your own knowledge?—I think the most decided statement of the advantage of reclaiming lands, is one that I myself have published in the book I have mentioned; and that is beyond all controversy, because I give a copy of an official document, a report furnished to the landlords of the place, who had the money in their pocket, and therefore there is nothing to be said against it; and I could have given a still more flattering statement from circumstances that have since arisen, but I thought that was quite sufficient for any purpose I could have, and that it was better to adhere to an official document which was incontrovertible.

15558. Can you state the process and the expense of reclaiming an acre of bog land?—It is quite impossible to give any distinct idea of that; it varies so much from local circumstances. In the place I have referred to, I last year built a boat

which

which I let the tenants use, and I charge the tenants 2*s.* a day for the use of the boat, and they carry clay in it to their bog lands; and I am now getting about 70 or 80 perches of moveable railway. If a man has 10 or 20 acres of bog annexed to good clay land, I propose to hire the railway to him to assist him in claying it; and then I take another portion and hire it in like manner to the next; and in that way the tenants will be exceedingly benefited, and the landlords too, at a very moderate expense.

15559. Is it not essential in the reclamation of bog to carry either clay, or marl, or lime upon it?—It is absolutely necessary. The black rotten bogs will produce green crops, such as turnips and carrots, of itself, but that is decomposed bog; it is a rich black earth; but what is called the flow bog is not capable of cultivation without the admixture of clay, and a little lime or lime-stone gravel.

15560. What is the first process after draining the bog?—To clay it.

15561. Not to plough it?—I do not know that it would be a disadvantage to it to give it a slight ploughing, but the surface is the best, and if it is drained sufficiently, I would then set it in ridge potatoes.

15562. From the general character of the bog lands of Ireland, do you consider that they would be favourable to the growth of flax?—Not that kind of bog; I dare say black bog might do, though I am not aware of any experiment of that kind upon it, but I think the admixture of clay would be of importance to a flax crop.

15563. If it were reduced to such a state as to grow corn, do not you conceive that it would grow flax?—Certainly, but I think it would require more clay for flax than it would for oats or rye.

15564. Mr. *Heathcote.*] There has lately been a considerable exportation of flour from Ireland, as compared with the amount of corn; can you state what is the cause of that?—I think it is from the erection of more flour mills; Lord Caledon exports a large quantity to Liverpool, having not long since built a large mill on the best construction for the benefit of his tenantry, but which has been of great benefit to the entire neighbourhood. I conceive his lordship has not only raised the market price of wheat for the farmer, but he has also lowered the market price of flour to the consumer, and has thus rendered a signal service to the community, and I believe also with a very fair remuneration for the capital he has laid out.

15565. Have not considerable number of capitalists in Ireland lately directed their attention to the building of flour mills?—I think there have been more flour mills erected, and that that is the cause, but I am not able to speak decidedly.

15566. Mr. *Young.*] You stated that even if the land was given to the tenants rent free, that would not put them in so good a condition as they were in during the war, that is supposing the case of a tenant who took his lease before the high prices came on?—The rent of land at the highest, generally speaking, bore no proportion to the enormous increase in the profits of the crop.

15567. Do not you think that at present prices, the lettings in Armagh, Tyrone and Cavan are generally fair, as between landlord and tenant?—I think they are as low, generally speaking, as in any other part of the British dominions, but I do not think the tenant has as good a bargain now as he had during the war; the rents in county Armagh are higher than in any other inland county in Ireland I believe.

15568. What have been the reductions per cent upon the rent in those three counties?—I should say from 35 to 45 per cent generally.

15569. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] Do you think the present rents of Ireland could be maintained, supposing wheat to range under 6*s.* a bushel?—If there is a protecting duty on flax, I think they can without difficulty, but I think likewise that 6*s.* a bushel would, without any other assistance, be a remunerating price at present rents, or even 5*s.* under an improved system of cultivation.

Martis, 31° *die Maii*, 1836.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Shaw Lefevre,	Mr. Cayley,
Mr. Handley,	Mr. Sanford,
Mr. Attwood,	Mr. Evelyn Denison,
Mr. Wodehouse,	Mr. Clive,
Marquis of Chandos,	Sir Robert Price,
The O'Conor Don,	Mr. Heathcote,
Mr. Miles,	Mr. Loch.
Sir James Graham,	

MR. SHAW LEFEVRE, IN THE CHAIR.

Richard Spooner, Esq., called in; and Examined.

R. Spooner, Esq.

31 May 1836.

15568.* Mr. *Cayley*.] WHAT is your occupation?—I am a banker, and I farm also.

15569.* Do you farm extensively?—No, not extensively; it is a small farm, but very highly cultivated.

15570. Have you farmed for any length of time?—For upwards of 30 years.

15571. Did you farm formerly to a greater extent than you do now?—Not much.

15572. Have you at all considered the question of the relative condition of the farming interest, at the present and any anterior time?—It is in a very depressed state now; in a much more depressed state than I recollect it to have been before.

15573. Does your occupation as a banker at all connect you with the farmers in any way?—A great deal; I see a great deal of them.

15574. Do you speak from that circumstance to the state of the farming interest, or your own experience in other respects?—I have several means of information; I am much in the habit of associating with farmers, but I have been of late the chairman of a committee of farmers, who have been in London to endeavour to get some redress, and in that situation I have had access to farmers from all parts of the kingdom, and have seen their accounts and their books.

15575. Were those books *bonâ fide* accounts, or made up for the occasion?—Evidently the books they have kept for some years back, kept as farmers keep their books, not very accurately perhaps.

15576. What is the result of those accounts?—That they are universally losing money.

15577. Do you speak of what was the case three months ago, or their condition at the present time?—I do not think their condition at the present time is particularly altered from what it was three or four months ago, for the present increased price has not benefited the farmers generally.

15578. Will you give your reason?—Because the increased price, in a great degree, has only benefited capitalists who have been able to keep their grain and their stock; the great body of farmers have sold long ago; many are injured by it; and I became acquainted with the fact, a short time ago, of a farmer who had sold all his wheat to enable him to pay his rent, and was buying wheat for the use of his family at the present increased price.

15579. In what county is that?—In Worcestershire and in Suffolk.

15580. When you speak of a rise in price, do you allude to some particular article of agricultural produce, or do you extend your observation to all articles?—Every article has risen within the last three or four months.

15581. To what do you attribute that rise?—To many circumstances; there is a very great increased demand for some articles, and a short supply of others; but I attribute it mainly to the increase of the circulating medium.

15582. Emanating from what source?—Chiefly from the joint-stock banks.

15583. Do you conceive that the higher prices emanating from the joint-stock banks

banks are likely to be permanent, on the present footing of those banks?—I should say, certainly not.

15584. Will you explain why?—Because the moment prices rise above a certain level, the effect is to check the export of manufactured goods, and to give a tendency to the export of gold; that must compel the Bank of England to reduce its issues, and that will naturally, and as a matter of consequence, be followed by a reduction of the issues all over the kingdom.

15585. Do you attribute that to the arrangement under which the standard of 1819 took place?—Undoubtedly, to that and that only; you cannot raise prices above that level, which will range with the standard price fixed on gold; if prices are raised above the level, gold will leave the country.

15586. The necessary consequence of gold leaving the country is to compel the Bank of England to reduce their issues?—Yes; and immediately to cause a general decline of price.

15587. You state that the farming interest is very much depressed; are the Committee to infer that you attribute the distress to the fall in price?—To low prices, without a corresponding reduction of burdens.

15588. How long has the low state of price existed?—It has been varying; it may be said to have commenced in the year 1815, it has varied frequently in the years 1823 and 1824, it rose again up to the end of 1825, then prices fell again, and ever since 1825 there has been a continual lowering of prices till lately.

15589. To what do you attribute the commencement of the fall in 1815?—To the preparation to return to cash payments.

15590. What was the consequence of that?—An immediate fall in price.

15591. Did that prove disastrous to any of the productive classes?—To all the productive classes; it first affected the commercial and manufacturing interests, ultimately it fell upon the farming interest.

15592. As you are a banker, can you state whether it affected the bankers particularly at that period?—In the year 1816 there were several failures of banks.

15593. To what do you attribute their failures?—To the sudden alteration of the circulating medium; prices fell, and they could not realize the money owing to them, while they were obliged to pay every body what they owed.

15594. Why were they not able to realize the money owing to them?—There was not sufficient money in circulation; prices lowered, and persons who were safe before became insolvent; their property was lessened, but their debts remained the same.

15595. Who were their customers?—In the rural agricultural districts their customers were chiefly among the farmers, and the shopkeepers depending upon the farmers.

15596. Had the country bankers been in the habit of accommodating farmers largely at that period?—They accommodated farmers at that period much more than they will now.

15597. Why were the farmers unable to meet the call suddenly made upon them by the bankers?—From the low price of their produce, they could not sell their produce at prices that enabled them to meet it.

15598. The accommodation of the bankers was made to them under the expectation of a higher rate of prices?—Certainly; no one contemplated what then took place; if they had they would have been better prepared for it.

15599. Will you state when the resumption of cash payments actually took place, and our present standard was established?—The preparation to return to the standard began in 1815; in 1817 there was a departure from those preparations; longer time was allowed to the Bank of England before it resumed cash payments, and as to the 1*l.* notes issued by the country banks, the time allowed for their circulation was extended. In 1819 Mr. Peel's Bill passed, and that came into operation, but only for a short time, because in 1822 the pressure was found so very great, that Lord Castlereagh came down to the House, and brought forward three or four measures, expressly declaring that his intention was to alleviate the pressure which had been occasioned by what he called the too speedy resumption of cash payments. That departure from the standard went on through the years 1822, 1823, and 1824; that sent the gold abroad in 1825, and created the panic; ever since that we have, to a certain extent, been under the operation of the standard of the year 1819.

15600. There having been a postponement of the return to cash payments in 1817, in consequence of the distress which took place immediately subsequent to

the war: will you state what were the effects of the postponement of the resumption of cash payments on the previous distress?—It was such as very greatly to alleviate it; it was not altogether removed; prices rose, and there was considerable relief given.

15601. Did prices rise also of manufacturing and commercial produce?—Yes; certainly.

15602. You are aware there was a very bad harvest in 1816?—A very bad harvest.

15603. Would not that tend to raise the price of wheat?—Certainly.

15604. Would the high price of wheat in consequence of the scarcity tend to raise the price of other commodities?—I do not think it did; at that time it did not last sufficiently long.

15605. Would the high price of wheat in consequence of scarcity tend to raise the price of other commodities?—No, not from scarcity.

15606. Do you conceive if all prices at the period were raised in consequence of the increase of the circulating medium, the price of wheat was relatively higher in consequence of a scarce harvest?—No doubt.

15607. You state that the increased issues of 1817 and 1818 procured relief to a certain extent from the distress of 1815 and 1816, do you remember what the effects on the manufacturing and agricultural interests were from the Bill of 1819, in the years immediately succeeding it?—In 1819 there was general distress pervaded all classes of society; it did not affect the farmers so soon as the manufacturers and the merchants, as it never will; the operation on the currency is first felt by the manufacturers and merchants.

15608. Did that distress continue through the years 1821 and 1822?—It did, to a very great extent.

15609. Why should distress arising out of a diminished circulating medium affect the merchants and manufacturers before the agriculturist?—Because their engagements are to be met more promptly, they are much larger than the agriculturists' engagements; they are on bills, continually becoming due, and if those bills are drawn on produce or on goods, and the means of meeting the bills no longer exist to the same degree, they at once feel the distress; on agriculture it is slower in its operation.

15610. You have stated that the distress arising out of the curtailed circulating medium, which was the effect of the bill of 1819, was removed by an increase of the currency again, which was brought about by some measures proposed by Lord Castlereagh in the House of Commons; had those measures the effect of relieving the distress at that time?—Decidedly so; there was a greatly increased circulation, the prices rose and distress was to a very great extent removed.

15611. Did that rise of prices extend to manufacturing produce as well as agricultural?—To everything.

15612. Was there a state of general prosperity at that time?—The distress was very much relieved.

15613. Did you ascertain that the rise in the price of agricultural produce at that time affected the interest of the labouring classes at all prejudicially?—Certainly not.

15614. Do you recollect what might be considered almost a triumphant speech from the Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1824?—Yes I do, perfectly well.

15615. Do you think he would have made such a speech if the labouring classes had not been enjoying the prosperity as well as the manufacturing interest?—The price of agricultural labour rose.

15616. There was a state of general prosperity among the agricultural classes?—Yes, the labourers were then fully employed; they were then very well off.

15617. This happy condition of the productive classes having been restored how did it happen that it all was taken away again?—Because a struggle between prices and the standard took place; which it always will do the moment prices are raised above a certain point as a matter of course; prices must come down again to the level of gold, and that will very speedily happen again, not only agricultural prices but manufacturing and commercial.

15618. Are the Committee to understand you to say that a general rate of high prices is inconsistent with the present standard of value?—Perfectly so, perfectly inconsistent.

15619. Taking wheat as the standard, what would you say would be upon the

the average of years the price of wheat under the present standard?—Not 5*s.* a bushel, certainly.

15620. Will you give your reasons for that opinion?—I hold that opinion from the fact that before 1797 it never did average more than 5*s.* a bushel.

15621. Mr. *Sanford.*] For what length of time?—Taking it for 100 years before, unless there was some peculiar operation on the market from bad harvests.

15622. A hundred years before 1797?—There had been many causes in operation for eight or ten years before that, and if the Committee will refer to the evidence given before the Select Committee in 1793, and again before the Select Committee in 1797, it will appear that a struggle had been going on between the standard and prices for eight or ten years previous to 1797, therefore I should exempt the last ten years previous to 1797.

15623. Mr. *Cayley.*] Will you state why wheat at this particular period should be somewhere about 50*s.* a quarter, a good deal above 5*s.* a bushel, which you think must be its prevalent price on the average of years?—There have been several circumstances which have tended to raise the price of wheat, one the increased circulation, another the very increased consumption of wheat lately, for purposes for which it was not usually consumed; a vast quantity has been consumed in the keep of cattle and pigs, and I conceive the present prospect of the crop has an influence on prices, for the crop at present looks any thing but favourable, and I can only attribute to that the rise of price which took place yesterday.

15624. In your opinion was the harvest of last year generally speaking an average crop?—The harvest of 1835 certainly was not more than an average.

15625. Taking all circumstances into consideration, the circumstance of a certain degree of scarcity, the consumption in extraordinary ways, and the prospect of a bad harvest, you think those circumstances, in conjunction with the increased issues of the joint stock banks, have tended to raise the price of wheat beyond what it will generally bear?—I should not say a scarcity of wheat, but that the increased consumption, the increased circulating medium, and the prospect of the harvest have raised the price; I do not think there is any scarcity.

15626. If the harvest was more than an average harvest, would the dealers in corn take that into their calculation prospectively?—No doubt, there was no doubt more than an average harvest in 1834, and that they took into consideration.

15627. Speaking of the prices of barley and oats, would you say that the prices at present are such as cannot be sustained under the present standard of value?—Certainly the price of barley has been much higher than its relative proportion to wheat, occasioned by many causes, one the great increased consumption in all the manufacturing districts; for the manufacturers have been well employed at high wages; another, that there have been deficient crops of barley lately; we have not had a good crop of barley till last year, and for some time there was a very little stock of barley and malt in the country when we began to consume the crop of 1835.

15628. Do you attribute the deficient crops of barley of 1833 and 1834 to the dry springs of those years?—Yes.

15629. Speaking of meat, should you say that the present price of meat is a natural price?—No, very much beyond its natural price, for the same reasons I have given as to barley; there is a much increased consumption owing to the labourers being so well employed; but the chief cause is the very small stock; I never knew so small a live stock in the hands of the farmers.

15630. Was there a deficiency in the turnip crop the last year in the south?—It almost entirely failed.

15631. Did it tend to raise the price of mutton and beef last Christmas?—It lowered the prices very much in the months of October and November, and then in the spring, when the turnip fed cattle should have come, there were none to come, and that occasioned the present increased price.

15632. Has there been a great deficiency of grass this spring?—Yes, there is a very great deficiency, it is a month later than usual at least.

15633. Would that tend to keep up the price of meat?—I do not at present think it will, for they force the sheep into market before they are half fat, and that will tend to lower the prices for the present.

15634. You say there was a fall in the price of stock in November, to what do you attribute that?—To the failure of the turnip crop.

R. Spooner, Esq.

31 May 1836.

15635. Was that of lean stock or of fat?—Of both; beef was sold in Worcester market in the months of October and November for 4½*d.* a pound, and now it is worth 7*d.* or 7½*d.*

15636. You say you never knew a period when there was so small a stock in the farmers' hands, to what do you attribute that?—To the very great waste of capital in the farmers' hands; they have been obliged to sell what they could.

15637. Have they been obliged to sell their stock?—They have been obliged to sell their stock sooner; and for the last four or five years a great quantity of land was broken up for wheat which used to carry stock, because that turned into the farmers' pocket ready money. Stock farmers require a larger capital than arable farmers; a crop of wheat laid down on land which had been for some time, is produced at a comparatively small expense; this puts ready money into the farmers' pocket. This circumstance has increased the growth of wheat the last four or five years in this country.

15638. You conceive the depression among the farmers has diminished considerably the stock of cattle?—Certainly; there is no doubt of that.

15639. That relates to beasts?—Yes.

15640. Will you speak of sheep; is there as large a stock of sheep in the hands of the farmers as formerly?—I think not; they were recovering from the effect of the great rot; but this has again been a very bad year for sheep, and the mortality among the lambs has been great.

15641. Has that tended to sustain the price of wool?—The price of wool has been in a great degree the effect of the rot; but there has also been a very great demand for wool for foreign trade.

15642. Did the rot take place very extensively in your district?—Very extensively indeed; I know many men who were obliged to sell their whole flock of sheep for what they could get; they were all rotted.

15643. You stated that the price of wool has been sustained or raised to a considerable extent by the demand for foreign manufactures; if there was a great demand for foreign manufactures would not that show itself in foreign exports?—I conceive it must show itself; I know the demand for wool has been very great in the clothing districts.

15644. Would not there be a very pressing demand for the article, if it was scarce, independent of the question of export?—Yes; but from the information I have, I do not think they have been buying up to hold.

15645. Are you aware that the woollen exports have not increased materially till last year?—I am not aware of that; I should have thought they had been increasing the year before.

15646. If the woollen exports are not materially greater than they were 10 or 15 years ago, would you say that the increased demand for wool was to supply the deficiency, or in consequence of the increased exportation?—If the fact is so, that the exportation is not much greater than it was 10 or 15 years ago, it must be to supply the deficiency.

15647. You state that you anticipate a speedy termination to the present state of prosperity among the commercial and among the manufacturing interests?—I think there will be a great alteration in prices; prices are much higher than can be supported on the present standard of value.

15648. Do you see any appearances at the present time of a termination of that state of things?—Yes; I know that orders have been countermanded for manufactured goods in Birmingham, on the score of their prices not allowing any profit, and that in more instances than one letters have come from America, desiring not to have goods sent out, but sovereigns; for that sovereigns bore a better profit than manufactured goods: there have been several letters of that nature lately.

15649. Has that gold been drawn from the Bank?—The Bank is of course the great resource.

15650. Do you think that drain of gold from the Bank is likely to continue?—I should think it was likely to continue from what I said before, that prices are too high to be maintained under the present standard of value; I argue upon that principle.

15651. Are you aware of any degree of pressure there was in the money market last Wednesday and Thursday?—I heard it, but I am not much acquainted with the details of the London money market; I was informed there was a great pressure. A merchant came over from Rio to the neighbourhood of Birmingham, for the purpose of buying iron; he went back without buying one ton; he wrote to his

his correspondent to say the price of iron will not do in England; you must send to Germany for it; that was only a fortnight ago.

15652. Will you state what in your opinion would be likely, and with security, to give a permanence to a better state of things for the agricultural interest?—Nothing will give a permanent prosperity to the agricultural interest but that which will give permanent prosperity to all other interests; they are equally affected by the present state of the standard of value. My opinion is that nothing but an alteration in the monetary system of the country will give a permanent prosperity to any of the great interests of the country.

15653. Your opinion being that the alteration in the monetary system which took place in 1819 produced the depression; your opinion appears to be that some change again is necessary to relieve the pressure caused by that change?—Undoubtedly.

15654. What alteration?—I should certainly recommend the adoption of a joint standard of gold and silver; but that of itself would not be sufficient; it would be the first step, and a very right and proper step: that always was the standard of this country previous to 1819; the standard adopted in 1819 never had been the standard of this country previous to 1819.

15655. In what respect did it differ?—Previous to 1797, when you departed from your standard, the standard of value was gold and silver coin to any amount in tale, and that gold and silver coin was guarded against exportation and against melting: you have now given the single standard of gold, and have removed the prohibition against exportation and melting, and thus fixing a much more severe standard against the debtors of the country than had ever existed before; and have committed, in my opinion, a great act of injustice in so doing.

15656. When did the act of changing the gold and silver standard to a gold standard alone take place?—The Act passed in 1816, but did not come into operation till the Bank was compelled to resume cash payments.

15657. To what extent do you think injustice was committed by that Act and removing the protection against melting and exportation?—I think it affected prices full 15 per cent., because it took away from respectable houses a very considerable moral restraint under which they were placed with regard to the exportation of coin. No respectable house would be at all connected in the exportation of coin; it was contrary to law, and therefore although there were money changers found who did it, and who run the risk of so doing it, it could not be done to any great extent; and I attribute a great deal to the removal of that moral restraint. The silver standard being the standard of value in every other country but this, and gold being our only standard, occasions a greater difficulty in obtaining gold.

15658. When you say this change caused injustice to the extent of 15 per cent., did you mean that Act alone, unconnected with the Act of 1819?—No, it was a dead letter till the Act of 1819 came into operation.

15659. Did the Acts of 1816 and 1819, in your opinion, occasion no greater alteration in prices than 15 per cent.?—I should say 30 per cent.; facts have proved that beyond doubt; it is a matter of history now.

15660. Is it your opinion that the Act of 1816 would have produced that effect, even if we had not passed the Bill of 1819?—I do not think it would have had any effect at all.

15661. Supposing we had returned to the gold standard at the old rate, is it your opinion that that effect would have been produced, or that the present effect of the difference between the gold standard and a standard of gold and silver, is equal to 15 per cent?—A part is attributable to permitting the melting and free export of coin.

15662. If the Bill of 1819 had passed upon the principle of returning to the real and old standard, do you think that the Bill of 1819 would have produced a less prejudicial effect to the extent of 15 per cent?—It certainly would have produced a much less prejudicial effect; I cannot say that went to 15 per cent, because there were many other causes in operation at the moment.

15663. If we were now to return to the old standard, taking the silver at its old standard price, in conjunction with a law against the export of the coin, do you think that would give 15 per cent benefit to the productive classes?—Not at the old standard prices, but at the price at which we are now coining silver, that is 5*s.* 6*d.* I am asked why I think it would not effect this: there is a great deal of difference between breaking down the standard of value, and restoring one after it has been broken down; engagements made and existing in the higher prices of

R. Spooner, Esq.

31 May 1836.

1819 would, in the transition to low prices, cause difficulty far greater than merely corresponding with the benefit that would be felt by restoring high prices.

15664. Was 5*s.* 6*d.* the old standard?—No, 5*s.* 2*d.*

15665. What is the difference per cent. between 5*s.* 6*d.* and 5*s* 2*d.*?—Rather more than five per cent.

15666. You made some allusion to the law against the export of coin, would not that in fact make the standard, to a certain degree, a protection to the debtor?—Decidedly so; you have taken away that protection.

15667. That would have added something to the 5*s.* 2*d.*?—Yes, I have already calculated that.

15668. What advantage to the circulation do you conceive the law against the export of the coin to be?—It is very difficult to calculate the effect of moral restraint; it is not a mere question of price; respectable men would not break the law, but the law no longer existing, coin is now an article of export, and there is no moral restraint.

15669. A certain amount of per-centage would have induced men to have broken through that moral restraint?—Not among those houses who had the power to do it to any great extent.

15670. Do you conceive that practically effected a depreciation of the standard to the extent of two or three per cent.?—I should estimate it a great deal higher.

15671. Would you estimate it as high as four per cent.?—I should say a great deal higher than that; it must be matter of opinion, it cannot be matter of calculation; but I do lay great stress on the effect of that moral restraint.

15672. Is it your opinion that 5*s.* 6*d.*, without this moral restraint upon the export, would not be a more depreciated standard than 5*s.* 2*d.* with the moral restraint?—Certainly not.

15673. Five and sixpence would be virtually no depreciation on the old standard?—No, it would not cover the difference of the taking off the moral restraint.

15674. Is that all the change you would recommend now?—No, certainly not. I have stated in print my opinion as to the necessity of our having a national paper; a part of our circulating paper at least inconvertible. I do not believe that, with a debt of nearly eight hundred millions, and an expenditure of fifty millions a year, it would be possible to go on long without something in the nature of inconvertible paper. I have, on consideration, formed that opinion, and see no reason to alter it.

15675. What quantity should you issue?—The quantity must be matter of calculation; but as far as I have been able to form an opinion, I should say the amount of the dividends; I should make that a legal tender.

15676. Would that inconvertible paper have reference to the foreign exchanges, the danger of losing gold, or any turn of the exchanges?—It would not be affected by this; that paper would be at a depreciation frequently, as between that and the price of gold, but not at a depreciation in regard to the engagements of the country; the engagements among ourselves would then be kept steady, and not subject to be affected by circumstances over which we cannot exercise any controul; circumstances which, in creating a great demand for gold, completely derange the whole system of the circulating medium.

15677. Is it one of the advantages you propose under the system you have alluded to, of an inconvertible currency, that it would protect the Bank of England under a drain of gold, with the exchanges against us?—Of course it would take away all the evil consequences of a drain of gold; the evil consequence that now arises from a drain of gold is, that every engagement is altered in its value immediately, by circumstances which could not be calculated upon at the time you made such engagement, and over which no person can exercise any controul. The Bank of England cannot controul the drain for gold; it must endeavour to counteract it as much as possible, and in doing so must derange all the monied obligations, and increase the weight of taxation.

15678. You wish not to depreciate the circulating medium, but to keep it more equable?—It would, in my opinion, tend to keep a regular state of prices among ourselves.

15679. Who would have the controul of this inconvertible paper?—If it were to be limited by the amount of the dividends, that must be the controul.

15680. The Committee understand you to say that it was an injustice to the trading interests and to the productive classes generally, that we should have returned to the standard of 1819; do you consider that that change having taken place for so long, other interests have not grown up which would make it an injustice

injustice now to alter that?—I do not; I am confident that the question of injustice is on the side of depreciation; and I do not admit that we have gone on for any length of time under the standard of 1819: there has been nothing since 1815, when we began to prepare for cash payments, but a continual tampering with the currency; one time pressing upon the currency to a certain point, till it created distress and could be carried on no longer; then easing the pressure; giving relief and producing temporary prosperity: prosperity again operating upon prices, creating a drain of gold, and thus producing panic. This we have seen frequently, and shall continue to see as long as you endeavour to keep up such an immense superstructure on so small a basis; that basis must be extended or ultimately all credit will be destroyed.

15681. Do you think there is a progress towards that state of things now?—I do decidedly.

15682. And that the consequence will be that the standard will cause a drain of the gold, the exchanges turning against us?—I have not a shadow of doubt of it; one bad harvest would produce it, or a war.

15683. Had not we bad harvests from 1828 to 1831?—Yes; and there was a considerable drain of gold during that time; and it will be seen that that was felt in the money market, and caused ruinous fluctuations in prices, and so it will be again.

15684. Do you remember that at the time when we had been importing a considerable quantity of corn and exporting a considerable quantity of gold, there was a panic in the money market, on Lord Grey's retirement from office in 1832?—There have been several times operations of that kind on the money market; there was particularly in the year 1832; that was partly political.

15685. The effect was, there was a very small quantity of treasure remaining in the treasury of the Bank?—We know that only from rumour; I think there is no official document of that kind.

15686. You have spoken of the effect of the standard in the present time, do you conceive that some of the ill effects of the present standard might be removed by a double standard, referring back to the circumstances of the pressure in the money market in 1793 and 1797?—I do, to a certain degree; but there had been a struggle between prices and the standard for many years previous to 1797; it is a great mistake to suppose that the Bill of 1797 was occasioned by anything that happened within that one peculiar year; if you refer to the Reports of the two Committees I have mentioned, it will be found that there is a very curious and interesting account of that struggle that had been going on for years. In the year 1793 there was a secret Committee appointed to inquire into the causes of the ruin of the bankers; and I consider that distress then pervaded all classes of society. It distinctly appeared that this was owing to the drain of gold; the Committee recommended that Exchequer bills should be issued for the relief of the commercial interest: they were issued; prices immediately rose, and continued rising till they came to the point that gold left the country; in 1797 Mr. Pitt was obliged to get a Restriction Bill, and I have read Mr. Pitt's and Mr. Henry Thornton's evidence at that time; it is perfectly clear they both contemplated the necessity of adopting some standard in future which should have a greater power of adapting itself to the wants of this large manufacturing and commercial country, than the old standard of gold and silver.

15687. Was not there a considerable pressure upon the money market also in 1810 on the presentation of the Report of the Bullion Committee?—A very considerable pressure from the very same circumstances.

15688. Did the Bullion Committee disagree with the views you have taken, that the prices of commodities generally depend upon the amount of circulating medium?—No, certainly not; the whole principles I have laid down have been clearly laid down by the Bullion Committee; but if the measures proposed by Mr. Horner and rejected by the House had been carried; the war must undoubtedly have stopped and the whole monetary system, would then have been broken up.

15689. The recommendation of the Bullion Committee was, that we should return to cash payment in two years, notwithstanding the war?—Yes, and to the old standard of value. Mr. Henry Thornton recommended in his evidence, and in his speech in the House, that they should have ascertained the amount of the depreciation, stop its farther progress and adopt a standard of value just between creditor and debtor; this, if then attended to, would have stopped much of the mischief we are now suffering.

R. Spooner, Esq.

31 May 1836.

15690. That is a standard you would have wished to have seen restored in 1819? —Just so.

15691. You have stated that the pressure on the farming interest has arisen from low prices, do you conceive those low prices have arisen from other causes, may they not be attributed to over production?—I should think the farmer would not have been injured by over production, unless he had been compelled to bring into the market more than the market wanted; a farmer is not injured by growing two ricks of wheat instead of one, but by being compelled to sell them at low prices.

15692. Is it your opinion that there has been a greater growth of wheat of late? The growth of wheat has been much greater the last 10 or 12 years, but this year it is materially decreased, and I think the quantity sown last autumn is less by above one-fourth than it was the year preceding.

15693. Should you say that the increase in the growth of wheat is greater than the increase in the population?—No, I should not think it has been.

15694. Do you think that a greater breadth of wheat has been sown during the last 10 or 15 years than for several years during the war?—I do not know that I can give an opinion upon that.

15695. Are you aware in what years the greatest number of Inclosure Acts took place?—I think in the year 1813 or 1814, but I speak merely from memory.

15696. Are you aware that the great complaint has been among the cold clay farmers?—Yes, there is very great complaint among them.

15697. Have you ever heard it stated, that possibly the distress to the cold clay farmers may arise from a good machine driving out a bad one?—I have heard that opinion, but I think there is not the slightest foundation for it; those clay farms have been in cultivation ever since the memory of man, and there is no such very great modern improvement in the cultivation of light lands; Mr. Coke introduced the clover and turnip system at Holkham many years ago, and there has been no very great modern improvement since that. The introduction of bone manure of late has been on a very small scale, it applies only to a small part of the country.

15698. When did Mr. Coke's improvements take place?—I forget the year, but it must have been before the war.

15699. Has the turnip system been progressively going on for a great number of years? – Yes, ever since I can remember.

15700. Has that system been applicable chiefly to the lighter lands? —Yes.

15701, That has made them produce a greater rent than before?—Yes; Mr. Coke's rental I am informed was increased from 2*s.* 6*d.* an acre to 20*s.* and upwards merely by the introduction of that system.

15702. If those light lands are very extensive may not the increase of growth on those light lands have substituted the growth which was previously had from the heavier soils?—Yes, that has been going on for many years.

15703. Do you conceive the light or the heavy soils are greatest in extent in this country?—The heavy lands form the largest proportion of the ploughed land of this country, as compared with what may be called the turnip and barley land.

15704. Notwithstanding the improvements in husbandry on the light soils, you do not think those lands are sufficient in point of extent to substitute the amount formerly grown on heavy lands?—No; but those improvements have been going on for the last 35 years, and it is not of late years that the light lands have begun to feel the effect of this improvement.

15705. Do you think that if the light soils have any effect upon the prices they would have had an effect equally during the war as they have had since the peace?—Undoubtedly they had an effect during the war, for without them we could not have fed the population.

15706. There is a difference in the expense of cultivation between light and clay soils?—The clay land requires so much more labour than the light lands; and the difficulty arising from the want of money is felt on that land a great deal more than on the lighter.

15707. Are bankers less inclined to accommodate farmers than they used to be? —Undoubtedly, from the circumstances of the uncertainty and unsteadiness of the money market. Accommodation to farmers is of a very different nature from accommodation to tradesmen; that is given on bills, and those bills are due within a certain short period; and money thus advanced its return may be calculated upon; but it is no use lending to farmers unless for a longer time, and no banker will lock up his money, being aware of the perpetual fluctuations which have taken place and which must take place in the value of money under the present system.

15708. Can farmers with good security get accommodation?—Not from bankers who understand their business; they will not lock up their money in dead loans to farmers; it had been the custom in many parts to accommodate farmers, and when the panic of 1825 came bankers could not get the money so lent. Farmers have no negociable security to offer, and bankers learnt a lesson which they will not very easily forget; they will not, by lending to farmers, lock up their money again.

15709. On what basis did they make loans to farmers before?—Because farmers were then generally doing well and there was no great reason to apprehend such a great fluctuation in money; the bankers made a profit and the farmer paid again when he got in his harvest, but that is not the case now.

15710. You have advocated a certain degree of depreciation in the standard of value, should you say it might not be the interest of the banker to depreciate the standard of value?—The interest of bankers is to have prices quite steady and not to fluctuate; there are certain classes of society that have been much benefited by the late fluctuations; persons who have a great command of capital and are always on the watch, taking the advantage of low prices, buying from distressed persons who are obliged to go to market and make sacrifices. A command of capital enables the former to make a profit by the distresses of the latter, this has been done to a great extent, and such persons no doubt have a bias in favour of the present system; but bankers can only profit by the general prosperity of all classes of society, and this is best promoted by steady prices.

15711. It has been asked of a witness, supposing there to be a depreciation of the standard, whatever be the extent of it, which would produce a rise in prices, whether it would be any advantage to any class of society, except a landlord having burthens on his estate, or a tenant under lease?—My opinion is the advantage would be to all classes of society, because there is one general overruling burthen which presses on all classes of society, namely, the eight hundred millions of debt, and the depreciation of the standard would afford relief to all by lessening the burden of taxation.

15712. Is it your opinion that if there were that limited depreciation in the standard which produced a rise in prices, that would not produce any evils to the manufacturing and labouring classes?—Certainly not; the labouring classes are never better off than when it is the interest of the employer to find employment, they are sure then to be in a comfortable situation; it is only when labour is hawked upon the market that they suffer, and as to our exports the rise in price would not affect them, they would not be regulated by our Mint price of gold and silver, but by the quantity of gold and silver they will fetch abroad; if we were to depreciate our standard of value our *imports* would be measured exactly by the same measure as our *exports*.

15713. In fact, it would affect the nominal exchange and not the real?—Just so.

15714. What is your opinion of the effect of the present poor law?—I have not seen much of its operation with us, but I doubt whether it will be found to work well when there comes any time of distress; it may work well with low prices and when labour is in abundance, but not when the labourers are out of employment. It will be found totally impracticable, in my opinion, to work it then.

15715. *Chairman.*] You state that your plan of depreciating the standard, would not have any effect upon the exports of the country?—Certainly not.

15716. How do you reconcile that with the opinion you stated early in your examination, that the effect of the issues of the joint stock banks has been to cause a very material effect upon the exports?—Because the paper they issue is liable to be converted into gold at the old price; the price of manufactured goods being raised, while the price of gold is not raised, there would be a tendency to the export of gold; but if the price of gold or silver is raised, exactly the same relative position one with another would be preserved.

15717. Mr. *Denison.*] Your views are, first, a joint standard of gold and silver; what depreciation would you wish to establish?—I should take the silver at the present coin, that is 5*s.* 6*d.* an ounce.

15718. What depreciation do you reckon that would produce?—About six per cent, as between 5*s.* 6*d.* and 5*s.* 2*d.*

15719. What do you estimate the depreciation would be produced by your plan?—I do not quite understand what is meant by the term depreciation in the way in which it is put.

R. Spooner, Esq.

31 May 1836.

15720. You state that the great mischief arises from the point at which the standard is fixed?—Just so.

15721. You wish to alter the standard first by the introduction of a double standard of gold and silver?—Just so.

15722. What effect of depreciation do you conceive would be produced by the introduction of silver in connexion with a gold standard?—Practically speaking, it would be much more than the mere numerical amount; if we had a gold and silver standard, and the silver standard at 5*s.* 6*d.* an ounce, it would raise prices from 10 to 15 per cent.

15723. That would be the effect in the following manner: upwards of five per cent., besides a depreciation of 10 per cent., that including the operation of moral causes?—Yes.

15724. Five per cent. from the actual substitution of silver; and 10 per cent. from the general effect of the causes you have named?—Yes, several causes.

15725. The next step was the introduction of inconvertible paper?—Just so.

15726. Will you explain your views respecting that; what was to be the amount of this inconvertible paper?—I should propose it to the amount of the dividends.

15727. Would all the other paper in the country still be convertible into gold and silver?—No; I should make this a legal tender for every thing.

15728. There would be no paper convertible according to your plan?—None into gold, certainly, according to my plan; I should issue a national inconvertible paper.

15729. An inconvertible paper to the extent of the dividends?—Yes.

15730. What do you consider that to be?—Not quite 30 millions a year now.

15731. What would you do with all the rest of the circulating medium?—Let it take its own course; let the bankers issue their own notes, if they please, and pay them in the national paper just as they did in bank paper during the war.

15732. To what amount would you reduce the amount of those notes?—I do not know that I am prepared to say at the moment; I should think it would be found quite sufficient to go as low as 5*l.*

15733. You would keep the proper basis of the circulation under 5*l.* in metal?—That would be the consequence, of course; and I think you would keep your metal at 5*s.* 6*d.* an ounce for silver, with an issue of paper of the kind I have described.

15734. Still, according to that, 5*l.* bank notes would not be convertible into five sovereigns?—No; they would be convertible into a 5*l.* national note.

15735. *Chairman.*] You were understood to say you wished to have an issue of national paper, and that only a part was to be inconvertible?—No; the whole of that was to be inconvertible.

15736. Sir *Robert Price.*] The only way of paying fractional sums would be by paying down to 5*l.* in notes; having to pay fractions, it would be necessary to pay the remainder in gold?—All the fractions under 5*l.* to be paid in gold, or in silver at 5*s.* 6*d.* an ounce.

15737. Mr. *Denison.*] Do you think that by an inconvertible paper you would produce a still further depreciation than the depreciation you estimate at 15 per cent.?—Not against coin; otherwise I should not have thought the silver would have remained in the country at 5*s.* 6*d.* an ounce.

15738. The effect of your inconvertible paper would not be to produce greater depreciation?—Not with the alteration of silver to 5*s.* 6*d.* an ounce; I think the only effect would be to keep the prices steady, and to prevent a drain for gold being followed by the mischievous consequences by which it has been followed ever since we returned to the payment in cash. It is a mere matter of calculation; we might not want the whole of the dividends; but I conceive that would be about the amount.

15739. Mr. *Loch.*] On what ground do you take the amount of the dividends, rather than any other sum?—That is the measure of the expenditure among ourselves; we receive 50 millions and spend 50 millions among ourselves.

15740. Mr. *Denison.*] You spoke of 30 millions?—Yes, and I think that 30 millions will be quite sufficient.

15741. Mr. *Loch.*] Why do you fix upon the amount of the dividends?—Because they are paid out, and received again in the shape of taxation; and I think that would be sufficient.

15742. Does that amount represent the wealth of the country at large; what becomes

becomes of all the land rent, and all the other money of the country?—I form my opinion from past experience, from the quantity of bank paper during the high prices; but it is impossible to give any clear data; my opinion is, that 30 millions of that paper would be sufficient to meet the demand.

14743. Do you arrive at that amount from any reasoning in your own mind, or from that being the amount of the dividends?—I look to that which has been the amount of the paper in circulation.

15744. Supposing the amount of the dividends were to increase, would you increase the amount?—Of course I should, there being a larger amount necessary to meet the taxation.

15745. How would you do with respect to the standard of 5*s.* 6*d.*?—As to that price, if the national debt were to be much increased I do not think we should be able to maintain it.

15746. Then of course all the coin would necessarily disappear under your second plan?—No doubt, and that has been the effect of the immense weight of taxation already.

15747. Your plan would go on from time to time depreciating the currency to the same extent that the currency was increased?—If you go on borrowing money that must be the effect, you could not now carry on a war for six months without going to a depreciated currency; my only object is to establish it now when it can be done with safety, and not to do it when we are driven to it. It will be much better done with consideration and care, than if adopted in the hasty way it was in 1797.

15748. Mr. *Attwood.*] Is what you meant to say that you give a decided opinion in favour of a certain amount of paper inconvertible, as necessary to give stability to prices?—I do.

15749. But as to the amount, or how regulated, you are not prepared to give a decided opinion?—I have said that before; I was asked my opinion, and I said my opinion was 30 millions.

15750. Mr. *Denison*] In answer to a former question you stated, that in the event of increasing the quantity of paper it would have the effect of driving away the silver coin?—Just so.

15751. In order to supply the place of the silver coin must you not issue more notes?—I think you must again adapt your silver currency to the emergency of the time.

15752. You would arrange the amount of notes so as to recal the silver?—I would alter the standard of value, and that we must come to before we have been at war six months.

15753. Mr. *Cayley.*] Would there be a likelihood to increase the dividends, unless we went to war?—No, and we cannot go to war without it.

15754. If you altered the silver standard to meet an emergency, it would be in the way of a depreciation of the standard?—Yes, no doubt.

15755. If war were to take place we must come to a Bank Restriction Act again?—Certainly, in six months.

15756. Would the probable consequence of that be to depreciate the currency, and to an unlimited extent, rather than to a limited one?—It must be so, I conceive, as it was before.

15757. Do you conceive that there would be this advantage in your plan, that the quantity you propose would be a fixed quantity, and that under the Bank Restriction Act it was an unfixed quantity?—Certainly that would be a great advantage.

15758. Were you rightly understood that the effect of your silver plan would be to raise the price to 5*s.* 6*d.* and that this was the process; that you calculated first a difference of five per cent. between the bullion in the market at 4*s.* 11*d.* and 5*s.* 2*d.*; secondly, six per cent. by the difference of the old standard at 5*s.* 2*d.* and the present coinage standard at 5*s.* 6*d.*; and thirdly three or four per cent. by establishing a law for preventing the export of coin?—I do not propose the establishment of laws for preventing the export of coin.

15759. Do you propose the 5*s.* 6*d.* instead of the 5*s.* 2*d.* to meet the change in the present standard from the old standard, which old standard had the protection of the law against exportation?—I do, but it is impossible to say decisively what the effect will be.

15760. Sir *Robert Price.*] You were understood to state that the calculations were made very much on the footing of preventing coin from going out?—I do

R. Spooner, Esq.

31 May 1836.

not propose the renewal of that Act; I am by no means prepared to say that it might not be wise, but I do not propose it.

15761. Mr. *Denison.*] You attribute five per cent. to the positive depreciation of the standard, and ten per cent. to the depreciation produced by moral causes; in your first examination you attributed those moral causes to respectable houses not being willing to enter into the export of gold when it was prohibited by law?—Just so.

15762. If you do not re-enact that law, how do you propose to bring your moral causes into effect?—I do not state that that was the only cause in operation; I have stated it as one very great cause; the standard we adopted being universally the standard rejected on the continent, creates much inconvenience from the easy transport of gold as compared with the easy transport of silver must also be taken into account; suppose a war on the continent, even if we kept out of it, that would occasion a great drain for gold; they would fill their coffers with gold and not with silver; that would occasion a great drain of gold from this country.

15763. Without entering into the causes, you stand to the opinion that the effect of a double standard and an inconvertible paper would be to produce a practical depreciation to the extent of 15 per cent.?—I believe so; but that must be a matter of opinion and calculation; as I have not tried it I am not prepared to say that it would not be a proper thing to re-enact the prohibition of export and melting.

15764. Then the operation of the measure you propose would be to produce a depreciation to the amount of from 10 to 15 per cent.?—Yes.

15765. Do you think that you could produce a depreciation of from 10 to 15 per cent. without causing injustice to some?—I think so; I think the question of justice is completely on the side of depreciation. We did a very great act of injustice in the year 1819, and if it is conceived that the injustice is over I think that is a great mistake. A very large proportion of land is now paying rent out of the capital of the tenant, who is looking for better prices; but a continuance of the present standard of value will throw a great quantity of this land out of cultivation altogether.

15766. Take the interests of the country as they are divided, looking to the manufacturing and commercial interests, do you think the contracts connected with the manufacturing and commercial interests have not adjusted themselves to the present standard of value?—Certainly not; because the contracts being made, the effect of the present commercial transactions is to send gold out of the country; by and by it will be found that engagements made at the present prices cannot be kept; low prices must return when gold leaves the country, and then engagements cannot be kept.

15767. Whether a man makes a good or a bad mercantile speculation appears to have nothing to do with it, but whatever may be the case in some particular instances, looking to the landlord and the tenant, and the mercantile and financial world have not contracts generally adjusted themselves and been conducted on the present standard of value?—Certainly not; they are conducted, in my opinion, upon the present prices, and the present prices cannot be maintained by the present standard of value.

15768. What do you mean by the present prices, those of the last month or of the present?—Those which have been going on in the manufacturing world for the last twelvemonth; copper has risen from 82*l.* to 102*l.*; 102*l.* cannot be maintained with the present standard of value.

15769. You have stated that all the transactions in the commercial world are conducted on the present prices; and on being asked the present prices you say those of the present year; if you had been asked the question last year would you have said they were conducted on the prices of that year?—They were conducted under the expectation that the price which existed at the time the contract was made would remain, and that they cannot, under the present standard of value, and therefore they have not adjusted themselves.

15770. Do you mean to say that a man who buys a certain amount of copper to-day expects to sell at the same price to-morrow?—He makes his calculation in relation to price, and if he thinks the prices will remain as they are he will find himself mistaken; if they will not remain as they are the effect will be to send gold out of the country and then the prices will come down again.

15771. Sir

15771. Sir *Robert Price.*] Would your evidence have been very much the same if you had been examined last year?—Exactly the same in principle.

15772. The prices having risen considerably the results will be very different from those you anticipated?—It is the converse of the proposition; there was then a tendency to rise, created by the commencement of an increased issue of paper; when that comes to a certain point it will be reversed, and the standard of value will bring you back to low prices.

15773. Mr. *Loch.*] Is it your proposition that the men in the commercial world do not understand their business, and are making bargains they cannot fulfil?—I form no such opinion; but by false legislation the commercial and all other classes have been placed in circumstances of danger and difficulty, which they cannot control.

15774. You consider that present circumstances tend to confirm your view?—I think that they do. I say that it is impossible to maintain the present prices under the present standard of value, and that I believe is the opinion entertained by most practical men.

15775. Sir *Robert Price.*] Would you last year have said it was impossible to maintain present prices?—Certainly not, I should have said last year that I thought prices would rise, for I saw a great tendency to the increase of the circulating medium, particularly by the increase of joint stock banks; that up to a certain point prices would rise, but when they got to a certain point, they will not range with gold, and they must fall; and to that point they had not then got.

15776. Mr. *Denison.*] When you say great injustice was produced by altering the standard of value by raising it when it was done, if that injustice was produced by raising the standard, would not injustice be produced now on the other hand by lowering it?—That depends upon whether our engagements have got to the full extent of the operation of those causes; but the Committee by referring to the evidence given before the Committee on Manufactures and on Agriculture, must I think be convinced that to that level prices have not yet come.

15777. You stated in your former answer that great injustice had been produced by raising the standard of value?—Just so, and that injustice is not yet fully accomplished.

15778. That is a completely different operation from that you have referred to, of a merchant buying at one price and selling at another; but you say an alteration of the standard now, will not produce an injustice on parties who have entered into bargains on the faith of the standard remaining as it was?—I cannot conceive that the question of injustice can go to any extent, there may be some few individual cases where men have made permanent bargains where it may operate against them, but I cannot point out what class would be injured by the plan I propose.

15779. Mr. *Sanford.*] According to your idea of the existing standard, what do you think the amount of circulation in this country ought to be?—It is utterly impossible to give any definite answer to the question; the amount of circulation will vary according to circumstances, under certain circumstances one amount of circulation, and another amount under other circumstances.

15780. You state that your plan for relieving the distresses of the people will be by the issue of an inconvertible paper, and that to accompany that, it would be necessary that the standard should be raised above the present standard of value?—Just so.

15781. Therefore that would be an increase in the circulation of from 30 to 50 millions?—I do not know that; a great deal of paper, now convertible into gold, would disappear, it would supersede that.

15782. Then the effect of high price would be given by an increased circulation?—First of all by the alteration of the standard of gold and silver, it would then be maintained by a circulating medium, not liable to be affected by the drain of gold.

15783. What do you conceive the amount of the circulating medium would be?—I am not prepared to state that, but I do state that a portion of inconvertible paper is necessary steadily to maintain prices; I say as matter of opinion I think that inconvertible paper to the extent of the dividends, will be a sufficient quantity.

15784. Have you any idea what the circulation of the country is?—The Bank of England is, I know, about 18 millions; the joint stock banks, about

R. Spooner, Esq.

31 May 1836.

three millions, and the country banks about eight millions. The joint stock banks have increased one million four hundred thousand in the last 14 months.

15785. Mr. *Loch.*] You mentioned that about 30 millions of inconvertible paper was the currency you thought necessary for the country?—I state that as matter of opinion.

15786. What effect on the prices would the having 30 millions of inconvertible paper have, supposing a quantity of manufactured goods, and a quantity of agricultural produce, what would be the effect, the prices of gold and silver remaining always the same?—The inconvertible currency would remain always the same; but there would be, as there is now, a great amount of private credit, and that would not be so likely to be affected, having this broad basis to rest on.

15787. It would always change its relative proportion to the quantity of private paper in the market?—It would change as to the price of gold, but not as to the engagements of the country.

15788. Would not the introduction of an inconvertible paper to this amount banish all gold from the country?—It would not banish all gold from the country; it will be retained in the country if you coin silver at 5*s.* 6*d.* an ounce.

15789. Mr. *Denison.*] You had no difficulty in stating who the parties injured were, when you raised your standard of value?—No; certainly not.

15790. But you have great difficulty in pointing out any parties who would be injured if the standard of value be lowered to the same extent?—I have certainly; I conceive if there is one party more interested than another in lowering the standard, it is the creditor of the country; for I think it would give him a state of security he has not now.

15791. Sir *R. Price.*] It would give him an immediate loss, would it not?—No, I think not; it would give him less money, but it would give him permanency and safety; it would give him a less nominal income.

15792. Mr. *Loch.*] What would be the effect on mortgagees?—To make their condition safe, which it is not now.

15793. *Chairman.*] What would be the effect on those landlords who let their land on nominal rent, at a fixed money-rent?—It will enable them to receive those rents, which they will not, if the present standard of value goes on.

15794. Mr. *Heathcote.*] Your opinion is, that depreciation of value would have a great tendency to raise all sorts of agricultural produce?—No doubt.

15795. The consequence of that would be very beneficial to a great number of landed gentlemen throughout the country, who would be enabled to raise their rents?—I think not; I think it would enable them to maintain their rents, which they cannot do without it.

15796. Do you think that if the price of agricultural produce were raised much higher the rents might be raised?—I do not think it would; it might in some few instances where they have been much lowered.

15797. Do you not suppose there are some landlords who might take advantage of the 10 or 15 per cent. rise, and raise their rent?—I think not; I think they cannot maintain their present rents.

15798. You have spoken of being in company with a great number of farmers lately, were those farmers cultivators of any particular sort of land?—Land of all descriptions from all parts of the kingdom.

15799. Have there been any reduction of their rents?—In many instances, a very great reduction of their rents.

15800. To what extent have their rents been reduced?—From 35 to 15 per cent.

15801. Have you found that in those cases where they were reduced considerably, the occupiers of light lands were reduced to the same extent as compared with the heavy lands?—No; in such situations there is not so much expense in cultivation, and there is a more certain crop.

15802. You state that if the present standard of value is adhered to, a great deal of the land must go out of cultivation?—Yes.

15803. If, in the alteration, there is a rise of prices of only 15 per cent., how would that enable the occupiers of clay land to cultivate?—I think that 15 per cent. would enable them to go on.

15804. Are you not aware there has been a considerable district of fen land brought into cultivation within these few years?—Yes; but not more than equal to the increased population of the country.

15805. Are

15805. Are you not aware there has been considerable improvement in farming generally, so that the acreable produce has been increased?—There has been a great decrease in the productive power of the country, from the land being run out; a great deal of rent has been paid out of the deterioration of land. I know many farms in Worcestershire and Warwickshire now, which are *intrinsically* not worth so much as they were 10 years ago by the whole rent which has been paid?—

15806. Is it your opinion there is a less quantity of corn produced throughout the kingdom than there was 15 years ago?—There has been a greater quantity produced the last 3 or 4 years, in consequence of the greater quantity of arable, but there has been a less acreable produce. The productive power of land, I have no hesitation in saying, is very materially diminished.

15807. You are speaking of the effect of an altered standard on prices, and the issues of joint stock banks on prices; do you conceive it will have an effect on the price of wheat, in consequence of the great quantity of wheat produced the last two or three years?—They have been all relatively affected, but wheat having been more grown the last two or three years, and having had four years good crops, and three years above the average crop, has kept down the price of wheat more than other articles.

15808. What should you say with respect to the crop of oats?—I apprehend the crop of oats has not been a good crop for the last four years, but we do not grow many oats in the part of the country I am acquainted with; our great supply comes from Ireland; almost all the horses for posting, coaches, &c. are fed on Irish oats.

15809. You attribute the great consumption of barley to the great consumption in the manufacturing districts, and to the shortness of the crop?—Yes.

15810. Barley has maintained a greater relative price for the last three or four years?—There have been lately very wet seasons in the early part of the spring, then the weather has set in suddenly dry, this occasioned short crops of spring corn, and I think there is likely to be a short crop this year for the same reason.

15811. You state you do not think that the condition of the labouring classes will be deteriorated by the alteration of the standard?—Certainly not, for their labour will come to a good market.

15812. The Committee have been given to understand, by a great majority of the witnesses they have examined, that, generally speaking, the labourers were never in more full employment than they are at present, and that they never could command a greater quantity of the comforts of life than they can at present?—Because they are just now under the effect of an increased circulating medium; there was an increase of circulation, and at the same moment there has been an increased demand for labour in certain works, such as railroads, &c. I do not think there is an increased demand for agricultural labour, but there is a profitable employment for labour in some parts of the kingdom, and the effect of it is generally felt.

15813. You consider that the present prosperous condition of the labourer is not likely to be permanent?—Not if you take away from his employer the power of profitably employing him; and I think that must be the consequence of the present state of things.

15814. Mr. *Miles.*] Does your evidence go to the employment in other branches as well as agricultural?—Certainly, throughout the kingdom.

15815. You were understood to say the productiveness of the land has materially decreased, is it your opinion that it has decreased in consequence of the outlay not being sufficient to maintain the real productive quality of the land?—I think that has been the case in part, and that there has been too much ploughing up of land, because that put money into the farmers' pockets, and enabled them to pay rent, and that that has been winked at by the landlords, because they could not get their rent in any other way.

15816. Do you conceive that in clay soils draining has been done to any extent?—Yes.

15817. Do you think that has been done to the full extent?—There has been a great deal drained; the landlords have frequently done it, instead of making an abatement of rent; they have done anything rather than reduce rents: they have made improvements.

15818. Has not the consequence of this been an increase of production?—Whenever this has happened.

15819. Where it has happened, there would be increased production?—No doubt;

doubt; and if the price of produce would pay the expense, the produce of this country might be increased very materially.

15820. Mr. *Clive.*] You state that according to the present standard, the bushel of wheat must be sold rather under 5*s.*?—That is my opinion.

15821. The belief of the farmer goes to this point, that between 60*s.* and 64*s.* a quarter alone will be remunerating?—I think that about 60*s.* a quarter would be the price the best for the interest of all classes of society.

15822. To remedy this and to prevent that ultimate disappointment which must necessarily arise both to the farmer and the landlord, would you advise a different scale of the duty?—I think that is not of the slightest consequence, for with the present standard of value, the corn law is very much a dead letter: it will never come to those prices to afford the farmer any protection under the present standard of value, for it never will come near the import price unless in time of famine.

15823 Mr. *Cayley*] Do you mean to say there is not a protection to the landed interest from the corn-laws?—I should say certainly, not because it does not come within the import price, but there is a great protection to other classes of society, because if you were to repeal the corn laws, the bullion would immediately leave the country, and the whole monetary system would be broken up.

15824. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] Are you of opinion the single circumstance of two bad harvests following one another, would have the effect of breaking up our monetary system altogether?—I am; I have not a shadow of doubt about it.

15825. If the circumstances of the country should require the import of foreign wheat to the extent of a million quarters this year, and a similar demand next year, and there should be at the same time a demand for money similar to that which existed in 1828 on the part of Russia, and that now stated to be going on on the part of the United States, would not the Bank of England necessarily be compelled to reduce its discount without any possibility of exercising a discretion whatever the effect might be?—To reduce her issues (there is not much discount) if they are to take care of themselves they must.

15826. Sir *R. Price.*] Your scheme is in your opinion equally applicable to all classes of society, the commercial, the manufacturing, and the agricultural interest?—I think it would benefit all classes.

15827. Do you consider that within the last two years any other interest has been suffering, except the agricultural interest?—I am not conversant with it, but I am told the shipping interest has been suffering most materially; there are some branches of our manufactures have been suffering, for instance the glove trade, owing to the great importation of gloves.

15828. You do not consider generally speaking, that the manufacturers have been suffering the last two years?—They began improving two years ago, they have been gradually improving ever since, and with that improvement there has been a gradual increase of the circulating medium.

15829. At this moment do you consider that that prosperity has come to its acmé?—It is impossible to say, but my own opinion is, that it has come to its acmé, that it is built on prices which cannot be maintained, that between the standard and prices the struggle will begin, and that prices will fall.

15830. Supposing the manufacturing and commercial interest to be able to maintain the prices for the next two years, and that the prices of agricultural produce do not very materially deteriorate, shall you still be of opinion the change has been most ruinous to the country?—If the prosperity of our manufactures and commerce goes on in the next two years, and the prosperity of agriculture goes on in proportion for the next two years, I should not only doubt my opinion, but shall give it up.

15831. Are you satisfied with the present state of things, agricultural and commercial?—Certainly not with regard to agricultural produce, because the agricultural prices now are not the prices arising from a state of real prosperity of agriculture, but from a deficiency of many articles. The price of wheat is a great deal too low. Meat is too high, from scarcity. Wheat is low, not because of prosperity, but in consequence of particular circumstances before described.

15832. If agricultural produce were to maintain its present prices, you would begin to doubt your opinion?—If the present prices of most articles could be maintained, and if wheat resumed its relative proportion, I should certainly doubt my opinion.

15833. Mr. *Attwood.*] Has your opinion been confirmed by the experience of the last 15 years?—It has undoubtedly.

15834. Mr. *Cayley.*] If the price of wheat be 5*s.*, that is 40*s.* a quarter, does not the degree of protection of the present corn law depend upon the price at which foreign corn can be imported?—Of course, if you ever come within the range of those prices; but you do not come within the range of those prices.

15835. Supposing 30*s.* were the price at which wheat could be imported from foreign countries, and the price without importation is 40*s.*, would not the protection by the present corn laws then come into operation?—There would then be an import, but that cannot be said to give protection to the agriculture which does not leave a remunerating price.

15836. Sir *R. Price.*] Your proposal will have the effect of raising the prices 15 per cent.?—Yes, perhaps more.

15837. What would 15 per cent. on 5*s.* a bushel raise the price of wheat?—Just 9*d.*

15838. Then 5*s.* 9*d.* would be a proper remunerating price?—No, I do not say that. Wheat is too low at present according to other articles; I think prices generally would be raised 15 per cent.

15839. It is 15 per cent. upon the average price, according to the present standard, which you conceive would be 5*s.*—Yes.

15840. Therefore the increase upon that would be 9*d.*, which would in your opinion be a remunerating price?—No, I do not say that; but when I say that prices will rise in proportion, it will increase consumption, and increasing consumption and increasing general prosperity, will effect it more than that.

15841. Mr. *Handley.*] Is it fair to suppose that wheat should maintain its disproportion to other articles of agricultural produce for a tract of years?—No, certainly not.

15842. Then it would have an effect on all articles, and according to their relative value will fix the prices of each according to that standard?—Yes, certainly.

15843. Sir *R. Price.*] You state that according to the present standard of value 5*s.* will be the price of a bushel of wheat, supposing other produce is higher in proportion than wheat, instead of wheat rising other agricultural produce must be lowered?—I cannot state exactly what effect it would have upon any other general commodity, if it increases consumption all prices will rise, and I think the farmer will be in a better situation by 15 per cent. than he is now.

15844. Other things must fall?—If there is a good crop of barley no doubt they would fall.

15845. Your plan would raise wheat to 5*s.* 9*d.*, but not raise the price of any other agricultural produce as it is now fixed?—No, not at the present moment; the farmer has not the benefit of the present price.

15846. Mr. *Cayley.*] Do you conceive the removing the beer duty had any effect on the price of barley?—A very considerable one.

15847. That would alter the proportion between barley and wheat which existed previously?—No doubt it would; if farmers find barley more profitable more will be grown, and that will bring down the barley again to other articles, but they do not equalize so soon as manufactures.

15848. If the price of all things rose in the ratio of 46*s.* for wheat, you anticipate that rise of prices from the relaxation of the standard, would relieve you in respect of personal engagements and would stimulate the general prosperity?—I do.

15849. That would give an increased power of consumption among all classes, and that would tend to increase the price of wheat from 46*s.* to perhaps 50*s.* or beyond 50*s.*?—I do.

15850. Mr. *Miles.*] Do you conceive that we have grown more than our consumption of wheat for the last three years?—I do not believe we have; we did in 1834, but I doubt whether we did in 1833 or 1835.

15851. You do not think that the present prices arise from the excess of supply beyond the demand?—Certainly not.

15852. Sir *R. Price.*] Any alteration in the monetary system will raise the price of all articles?—I think it will.

15853. It will raise the prices of the articles the Agriculturist buys as well as those he sells?—Certainly.

R. Spooner, Esq.

31 May 1836.

15854. The only great relief which will take place from the alteration will be the alteration of the taxes of the country?—On the taxes of the country and his payment for rent and tithes, and that forms a very large proportion in the case of the farmer; he grows almost every thing he wants except his clothes and tea and sugar and so on.

15855. *Chairman*] All the costs of cultivation will rise in the same way?—No, for there will not be such heavy poor rates; it will not increase the price of cultivation in the same proportion as prices rise.

15856. Mr. *Cayley*.] Would the wages of artizans rise in the same proportion?—No, they would not rise in the same proportion because they have not fallen in the same proportion.

15857. The *O'Conor Don*.] Do you not consider that the evils inflicted on the debtor by the change of currency have in a great degree terminated, in so far as the great majority of debts existing at the time of that change of currency are now liquidated?—I think not; I think it has ruined a great number of persons, but that there are a great number more to be ruined, and especially the tenantry of the country, that they have been living on their capital in the expectation of better times and are getting worse every day.

15858. *Chairman*.] In respect to the aged and infirm poor they will be maintained at a greater expense in consequence of the increase in prices?—No doubt, and the farmer will receive back his share of the increase of expense, as he furnishes the food, &c.

15859. Do you not anticipate that if there should be any great increase of poor rate the rents will rise immediately?—I think not; for the rent is generally a vast deal higher than can be maintained at present prices.

15860. Sir *R. Price*.] When you say the payments of the farmer are much less than his receipts, that he would gain little by the alteration more than he would lose, you put out of the question any increase in tithes or rent on any of those payments?—Rent I have already stated must come down, and tithes must come down; nothing has yet found its level at the present standard; his charges operate against him.

15861. *Chairman*.] You speak of rents being too high, do you allude to any particular part of the country?—No, I form my opinion from having taken a great deal of pains in communication with practical farmers from different parts of the kingdom; I have seen farmers from all parts and have seen their accounts, their Books, what they have made, and what they have paid, men who have followed the same industrious habits through life and not been led into any expense beyond their necessities.

15862. Mr. *Sanford*.] According to your investigation, to what amount do you conceive there has been a reduction of rent?—It has varied from 35 per cent. to 15; the highest has been 35.

15863. Within what period?—Within the last 10 years.

15864. Does your experience as a country banker go back beyond 1797?—No, I knew nothing of it in 1797.

15865. Mr. *Handley*.] Can you suggest any other mode of relief to the agricultural interest?—I cannot any efficient relief, but I think there would be a considerable relief given by an alteration in the malt tax.

15866. Have the goodness to explain the nature of the alteration you would suggest?—I should suggest the taking off the duty on malt and putting it on beer sold retail; but if that cannot be done, if any mode can be found by which the farmer can malt his own grain for the use of cattle it would be an immense benefit; any one who has tried that knows the difference between malted grain for feeding cattle and dry grain.

15867. It has been stated that the permission given in 1827 of spurting barley was sufficient for the use of cattle; do you personally know whether the benefit to the cattle arises from its being in a perfectly malted state?—The great benefit arises from its being thoroughly malted; but spurting cannot be carried on to any extent, for it requires to be stopped at the moment, and this depends upon the atmosphere and other circumstances; and if it is carried at all too far the saccharine matter is lost; it can only be stopped by drying, and that is prohibited.

15868. The saccharine matter is of a better quality if malted?—Yes.

15869. Is it fully developed till the process of drying takes place?—I should say not fully developed till the drying takes place.

15870. Should

15870. Should you not consider it very dangerous to feed cattle on dry barley?—Very much so; they will not fatten upon it, they get feverish and hot directly; it is the worst food that can be given them.

15871. With reference to the permission in 1827 for spurting barley, are you aware whether that was accompanied with other restrictions?—There was a letter written that there must be very great watchfulness used, and that there must be a report if there was a hop-kiln near the farm, or they had the means of drying it; I saw that letter myself.

15872. What do you consider to be the relative value of barley in a malted and in a spurted state?—I should rather have one bushel of real malt to two bushels of spurted barley.

15873. Have you formed any estimate of the value of malt, as compared with oil cake for cattle?—I should say it would be cheaper, and it would be particularly useful in clay soils, there the great difficulty is to keep a sufficient stock to make manure, and they want something to fat the stock in winter; turnips and mangle wurzel on such land are too expensive they cannot grow them, but if they can fat their stock in this way it would enable them to farm in a far superior manner.

15874. Have you confined your experiments or your thoughts upon this subject to the malting of barley alone, or have you considered whether the malting of wheat would answer?—If I could have malted wheat last winter; wheat I could not sell for 5*s.*, I could have made 7*s.* 6*d.* for it as food for cattle, I have seen practical men trying dry wheat, but they say it does not pay even at 5*s.* a bushel.

15875. You are of opinion that if it has been stated that the disadvantages of any relaxation in the law would be confined to the growers of barley; that is a mistake?—Certainly, the great balance of advantage would be on the clay lands.

15876. Are not the clay lands capable, when drained, of producing a large quantity of barley, though not of a malting quality?—Almost all clays with very few exceptions.

15877. Would not that barley be more efficient for the feeding of cattle, than that grown on lighter soils?—I consider that to have a greater quantity of saccharine matter.

15878. Would not a larger proportion of saccharine matter be produced from that description of barley, provided the excise regulations did not restrict the the farmer steeping and other processes?—Undoubtedly, the restrictions prevent the malting of any inferior sorts of barley or any thing, but the free working barleys the restrictions are general, but are not applicable to all barleys.

15879. Supposing a general reduction in the malt tax, so as to admit of barleys of different descriptions being used in the various processes of brewing, distilling and otherwise, are you of opinion that the restrictions of the excise still operate against making a valuable malt of such grain?—To a certain extent, but to a less extent, for the duty there would bear a smaller proportion to the prime cost.

15880. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] If half the duty were taken off what would be the effect?—I do not think the farmers would be benefited to the extent of the loss to the revenue, as the machinery must be kept up.

15881. Mr. *Handley.*] At present is there not a great deal of illicit malting carried on?—I believe there is.

15882. Are you not of opinion the deduction of the duty on malt would have the effect of checking that?—I think it would.

15883. Are you not aware that the spirit made in Scotland, the quality of whiskey depends upon the use of malt?—I have no doubt the distillers would use a greater quantity of malt, they would not use a greater quantity of grain certainly.

15884. Is it not generally supposed that would tend to improve the quality of the spirit?—It is generally supposed so, but I have no knowledge of the subject myself.

15885. Is it not the practice in many of the common breweries, and more especially in Scotland and Ireland, to use a certain proportion of raw grain instead of malt?—Yes, and not only in common breweries, but in public houses and families, it is a very general custom to mix barley with their brewing, even in the public houses.

15886. If the duty were reduced one half, do not you think that would be a sufficient inducement to them to use malt where they now use raw grain?—Certainly.

R. Spooner, Esq.

31 May 1836.

15887. How then do you reconcile that with the opinion you gave, that the farmer would not be benefited by the reduction of the duty?—I only stated that I doubted whether the benefit would be equal to the loss of the revenue.

15888. Inasmuch as the Commissioners of Excise inquiry have stated it to be their opinion that the circumstances enumerated, and others which they name, in the event of the duty being reduced one half, would double the consumption of malt, and thereby affect the revenue but very triflingly, if at all; provided a sufficient quantity of raw grain is produced, is it your opinion that under these circumstances this country could produce a large additional growth of barley?—They could produce barley to any amount; there is a vast deal of soil which is applicable to barley cultivation, which has been forced into wheat cultivation.

15889. In the instances referred to of illicit malting and using raw grain instead of malt in breweries, and distilling from raw grain, the barley is already produced; do you think if any additional quantity of barley were requisite from the increased consumption or the export trade, it would be capable of being produced in this country?—I have no doubt of that.

15890. *Chairman.*] Do you think that any alteration in the duty on malt can be made, without a corresponding alteration in the Corn Laws?—I do not see why that should be made; there would be no difficulty in producing a home supply to any amount.

15891. Do you not think that the burden of the malt duty is one ground on which we claim protection against foreign barley?—It is one ground; there are more; but it is one I would willingly give up, if they would take the duty off malt.

15892. Supposing the duty was taken off to the extent of one half, do you think we might consent to have a low fixed duty on foreign barley?—I should say, why should you have it, if sufficient can be produced without.

15893. Sir *Robert Price.*] You would not object to it?—No.

15894. Mr. *Handley.*] Are you aware at what rate of import duty barley can be imported from abroad?—I am not; but though I have no objection to the import of foreign barley if the duty on malt is taken off, as a farmer, it would greatly increase the difficulty with reference to the currency question. Anything which gives an increased tendency to the import of any article, increases the tendency to export gold.

15895. Sir *Robert Price.*] It would also have the effect of increasing the export of manufactures?—Ultimately it would.

15896. Mr. *Heathcote.*] Would it not have the effect of weakening the whole system of the Corn Laws?—It might have that tendency, but I do not see why it should.

15897. Mr. *Handley.*] It is in evidence, that the price of barley in the Baltic, on the average of the last few years, has been something under 17 *s.* per quarter; at that price, and with the nature of the graduated scale of our present corn laws, have you any doubt that a sufficient quantity of barley could be imported under the present duties, provided the barley in this country were to average from two to three and four and thirty shillings?—I am told by those conversant with the corn trade, there would be a sufficient import at the present price. I am not at all conversant with the corn trade myself.

15898. What has been the effect of beer-houses in your part of the country?—very bad indeed; they have done a vast deal of injury to the population; the effect has been very demoralizing.

15899. Do you find that the quality of beer has been improved?—No; the number of convictions for adulterating beer is very great.

15900. Do you find that the price has diminished?—I am not aware of that.

15901. The consumption has been increased?—I dare say it has; but I think the effect would have been much better to have left it on the beer, and have taken it off the malt.

15902. Sir *Robert Price.*] Do you think that could be done now?—I really cannot say; I know there is a very great impression against the beer-houses. I think that the notion as to the effect of the tax on beer, being to give an advantage to the rich man, is quite wrong, for that instead of that, the effect would be to enable the farmers to brew and give beer to their men.

15903. Mr. *Handley.*] What is your opinion as to home-brewing?—If there were no duty on malt, every man would brew over his own fire, and cool it in his own tub at home.

15904. Sir *Robert Price.*] How comes it that those persons did not brew before the malt tax?—They did to a great extent before the duty became so very high.

15905. Before the alteration of the law which took off the tax on beer, there was a very considerable bonus on brewing at home, and yet the people did not avail themselves of it?—Because of the high price of malt, owing to the duty.

15906. If the people consumed great quantities of beer, why did not they brew it at home?—There is a very considerable outlay in the purchase of malt, whereas the man would go and spend his 9*d.* or 1*s.* in the public-house, if he had not his 10*s.* to buy the malt.

15907. *Chairman.*] Cannot they brew beer in large quantities, at a less expense comparatively than in small quantities?—I think they may perhaps get more out, but not to any great extent.

15908. Mr. *Heathcote.*] With reference to the practicability of removing the tax from malt to beer, would there not be some practical difficulty in the large towns where they buy their beer?—I dare say there would, unless it were accompanied with an exemption from duty on beer not to be drunk on the premises; by this plan you do not put the man into a worse situation who goes to the public-house; he will only pay what he has been paying upon the malt.

15909. Do not you think there will be great difficulty in explaining this to the people?—There is always a great difficulty in standing against a popular cry, but I think that public opinion is coming round.

15910. Mr. *Handley.*] Is there any other article which is taxed so high in this country as malt?—Not any article that I am aware of except tea, but no manufacturer would submit to that which the agriculturist is obliged to submit to; the present system is taxing the raw material, in the course of its manufacture into the state in which it is to be consumed.

15911. Sir *Robert Price.*] You do not think it compatible with the revenue to introduce any improved method of malting sufficient to render it fit for cattle?—I think it might be done, and I would try it by limiting the farmer to malting grain of his own growth, and I would require he should return every year to the Excise officer the quantity of grain he grows, and how he applies it

15912. *Chairman.*] Do you think that could be done without considerable risk to the revenue?—I think there may be some danger; but it is too much to tax the farmer for such an object.

15913. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] Has it not been in contemplation that the farmer should take out a license to do it?—Yes; but then it must be accompanied with a return of the quantity.

15914. *Chairman.* Would it not entail on the Excise Office the employment of a great number of officers to watch them?—Yes; but I think much expense would be saved if the duty were changed from malt to beer; I should like to see a comparison of the expenses in many of the counties in Wales of collecting the malt duty, and the amount collected. I am satisfied several districts do not pay their own expenses.

15915. Sir *Robert Price.*] You conceive that taking off half the duty would be a great benefit to the agricultural interest?—Certainly it would.

15916. Do you think the farmer would be justified by the expense in using it for cattle, paying half the duty?—I should use it, and I think others would do so.

15917. Mr. *Heathcote.*] In the Report of the last Agricultural Committee it was stated that on an average of years England did not grow enough wheat for its own consumption; is that your opinion at present?—I am very much inclined to think that is the case; but that can be only a vague opinion.

Veneris, 3° die Junii, 1836.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Shaw Lefevre.	Sir Robert Price.
Mr. Cayley.	Mr. Handley.
Mr. Wodehouse.	Mr. Miles.
The O'Conor Don.	Mr. Young.
Mr. Clive.	Mr. Dunlop.
Mr. Attwood.	Mr. Heathcote.

MR. SHAW LEFEVRE, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *Henry Burgess*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *Henry Burgess.*

3 June 1836.

15918. Mr. *Cayley.*] WHERE do you reside?—My place of business is 29, St. Swithen's-lane, in the city of London.

15919. What is your occupation?—I am secretary to the committee of country bankers, and act as agent for bankers in any matters they direct me to transact.

15920. When was that committee first instituted?—I think in the year 1827, but I was not then connected with it.

15921. For what purpose was it instituted?—For the object of protecting the interests of country bankers against the meditated encroachments upon them, which it was apprehended would take place from the Bank of England and from the joint stock banks, the new Act for joint stock banks having just come into operation.

15922. Have all the bankers in the country united for that purpose?—With a very insignificant exception, more than $\frac{49}{50}$ths have united; but there are some persons in the list of bankers who take out licenses as country bankers who are not actually bankers; they are obliged to take out licenses as bankers to issue notes, but they conduct no banking operations. Those persons have not united themselves with the general body.

15923. What do you estimate to be the number of country bankers?—The number of distinct country banks is about 360.

15924. And $\frac{49}{50}$ths of those are united together in a society for their own protection, and of that society you are the secretary?—I am.

15925. How long have you been the secretary?—About four years.

15926. Are you the writer of a circular to bankers which is published every week?—Yes.

15927. Is that for the purpose of giving them any information respecting public affairs, or the commercial interests of the country?—That is a private speculation of my own, the bankers are in no respect connected with that publication. It was established pursuant to a resolution of the committee of country bankers, setting forth that it would promote the interests and form, probably, a point of union among the bankers, if a printed weekly circular were established, and the chairman was requested to confer with me for the purpose of forwarding the resolution; but the bankers have no concern with the publication.

15928. It treats of subjects which you conceive affect the interests of banking?—Yes.

15929. Does it include any thing relating to the interests of productive industry?—Very frequently; but I would beg the permission of the Committee to suggest, that I am not here in the quality of secretary to the committee of country bankers, because I have no authority from them to give evidence before this Committee. I am here distinctly in my own individual capacity, and I speak my own individual opinions.

15930. Of course you have given much consideration, from your connexion with banking, to the state of the circulating medium; will you state what you conceive

conceive to form the active circulating medium of this country?—The active circulating medium of this country consists of the coin of the realm, Bank of England notes, of notes payable on demand issued by the country bankers, and bills of exchange, which in various manufacturing districts are held to circulate on a par with notes payable on demand, allowing for the difference of interest.

15931. Throughout Lancashire has not there a system prevailed, and which still exists, of drawing small bills of exchange in the nature of accommodation bills, which perform the great functions of the circulating medium there?—Not to use the term "accommodation bills" in the technical sense, which means what are vulgarly called kites, there has been such a circulation.

15932. Was the quantity of that species of circulating medium diminished by the higher rate of stamp duty?—Very much indeed.

15933. Does that higher rate of stamp duty still exist?—It does.

15934. If it were diminished, would that species of circulating medium increase?—Very much. I have understood from Mr. Loyd, the great Manchester banker, that bills of the value of from 5*l.* to 10*l.* were extensively current before the higher duties on bill stamps were levied, and very few such bills are now in circulation.

15935. Do you then entertain the opinion, with respect to bills of exchange generally, that they form part of the circulating medium of the country?—That they did form a most essential part up to the year 1825. The portion of the circulation that they now form is very much diminished.

15936. Has their place been substituted by any other species of currency?—There has lately come into operation a practice amongst bankers of drawing bills at 21 days' date, and that is a species of circulation greatly on the increase.

15937. Is the currency formed of bills of exchange a very sensitive part of the currency, with reference to the effect produced upon it by the Bank of England issues?—Very.

15938. Do not bills form the chief circulation of West Yorkshire?—To a great extent in all the manufacturing districts, but especially in Yorkshire and Lancashire.

15939. Is the result of your experience that upon a contraction of the issues of the Bank taking place the amount of bills of exchange is also lessened, and is it in the exact ratio or in a very increased ratio?—That effect will occur very soon after any contraction on the part of the Bank of England takes place, and it will take place in a tenfold degree compared with that which had preceded it on the part of the Bank of England.

15940. In Lancashire, some years ago, what was the amount of bills compared to all other kinds of currency?—It is very difficult to give an estimate of the relative proportions. If I recollect right, Mr. Roby, an intelligent Lancashire banker, some years ago, estimated the proportion as fifty to one.

15941. If then your opinion be well founded, that bills of exchange are so extensively operated on by the Bank of England, does not it follow that the contraction of the Bank of England issues forms a very uncertain measure of the extent of the contraction of the whole circulation throughout England?—Certainly.

15942. If you consider bills of exchange to be a circulating medium, does not a great and sudden diminution of their amount operate materially upon prices, and produce all the distress usually attendant on sudden contractions of the currency?—It has the most certain, immediate and extensive effect upon prices of any change that can be accomplished in the currency.

15943. If that be your view does not it render it very difficult on the part of the Board of Directors of the Bank of England, when, for the protection of themselves, they decide upon a contraction of their circulating medium, to foresee the extent to which their contraction will operate upon the general commercial interests of the country?—Extremely difficult, as was exemplified in the year 1825, when the circulation of bills of exchange, which represent commercial credit, was almost stopped altogether. Hence, at a public meeting, it was proposed by Mr. Alexander Baring, that due bills should be paid in other bills having two or three months to run, of known validity. The amount of bank notes was at that critical moment so contracted, that, I repeat, at a public meeting at the Mansion-house, a proposition was entertained that the holders of due bills should take other bills not due in payment of the due bills, instead of demanding bank-notes or coin.

15944. Do you conceive the currency to be as abundant now as it was during the

Mr. *Henry Burgess.*

3 June 1836.

the period of the bank restriction?—I apprehend the currency is very much contracted, and the floating credit contracted in a still greater proportion.

15945. What do you mean by the floating credit?—I mean that description of credit that persons of good character and industry were able to avail themselves of in obtaining loans from country bankers, previous to the restriction upon cash payments being removed.

15946. Did not the country bankers at that time generally consider approved personal character with imperfect security, a sufficient ground on which to make advances?—Yes; the known industry and integrity of the party formed the basis of security; it was in order to aid the production resulting from that industry that the bankers were inclined to make advances, so long as they could rely upon the productions of industry remunerating the producer.

15947. With respect to the manufacturing and agricultural interests of the country at certain periods of the year, is not accommodation so extended, founded on personal character, even without marketable security, a very great advantage at a period of distress?—Yes, and I apprehend that accommodation is given yet very extensively in manufacturing districts, but not in agricultural.

15948. Should you say that there is a great difference now in the means of obtaining accommodation on the part of the farming interest, and on the part of the manufacturing interest?—I think that is the great cause of the deficiency of capital, which is so manifest now in almost all agricultural districts, but especially in those districts where grazing processes are the chief pursuits of the occupiers.

15949. When it is stated that a farmer with good security can now get as much accommodation from a banker as he requires, should you state that that was implying that he was in the same condition as he was in before the resumption of cash payments?—If the practice were the same, it would lead to the conclusion that the condition of things was the same as before. If the farmer were able to obtain the same accommodation now as before, it would show that the banker had as much confidence in making the loan as he had at that previous period.

15950. Do you think that the banker's confidence in the prosperous state of things in that anterior period stood in the place of that absolute security which he now requires?—I do.

15951. Was it ever the custom of the country banker, before the time of the bank restriction, to be so very strict with respect to security as he now is?—Certainly not.

15952. Was not good character in all times anterior to the war, and ever since the institution of country banking, the means of obtaining accommodation from the banker by the farmer?—Certainly, ever since country banking came into general operation, because on the character of the farmer for industry and integrity depended mainly the security of the banker.

15953. And in fact it was by means of the accommodation obtained from the bankers, with the security of good character, that the farming interest grew up to the state that it did previous to the war?—Yes, in a great measure.

15954. Can you make any comparative statement of the amount of the currency now, and in the year 1814 or 1815?—It would be necessary to define what is meant by the term "currency."

15955. That which operates upon prices?—I apprehend that the amount of the currency, taking all descriptions of currency into account, is much less now than it was in 1815.

15956. Can you state any proportion of difference?—That is extremely difficult to state.

15957. From your connection with bankers and other parties connected with banking, you would state it practically as the result, that there is a much less amount of circulating medium operating upon prices?—Certainly, a much less amount.

15958. You are in the habit of attending to the interest of the banks, and for that purpose of making periodical journies throughout the country?—I frequently travel into distant parts of the country.

15959. There you have communication with the productive parties of all classes?—Of all classes, but generally speaking I have opportunities of conversing with almost all the country bankers, as well as the leading bankers in Scotland, about once a year.

15960. Should

15960. Should you say that there are any persons in the country more acquainted with the affairs of the agricultural interest, than the country bankers?—They must from their avocations necessarily be intimately acquainted with the condition of all classes in their localities.

15961. Can you state your impression of what their convictions are with respect to the state of the landed interest for the last few years?—There is a very general impression that great distress prevails throughout most of the agricultural districts of England and Scotland, as far as the occupiers of land are concerned, and there is also an impression that the farmers are working materially upon their accumulated profits, and that their capital is consequently greatly upon the decrease.

15962. Having paid attention to the interest of all the productive classes, would you consider that the productive interests generally of this country have been flourishing for the last twenty years?—Decidedly not; up to within about two years back most of the productive interests of the country have been very far from being in a flourishing state.

15963. Taking any period of which you may happen to have had any knowledge, can you state that in any antecedent period there had been so much continuous depression as there has been in the last twenty years?—In agriculture there might have been as great a depression during a portion of the American war, but since that period I apprehend there has been no time when the depression upon the general interests of the country has been so great as since the year 1818.

15964. You have stated that agriculture was in a state of great depression during the American war; you do not think it then necessarily consequent upon a state of war, that there should be prosperity?—Certainly not.

15965. You are aware that the agriculturists of this country were in a state of great prosperity during the late war?—Unquestionably.

15966. To what should you attribute that prosperity?—To various causes; to the great increase of population, to the great extension of manufactures, to improvements in the culture of land and the breeding and feeding of cattle, but mainly to the extraordinary facility in distributing capital throughout the agricultural districts by the means of the country banks.

15967. Was that facility given by the measure which passed in the year 1797 which restricted the bank from payment in gold?—Not given, because it was in operation before, but greatly extended by that measure.

15968. In other words, would you say that the enlarged currency of paper was one of the main causes of the prosperity which existed during the war?—One of the main causes.

15969. The population has been going on in as rapid a ratio since the war as during the war, and manufactures have been increasing in an accelerated ratio?—Yes.

15970. And yet those two things taken alone have not conduced to the prosperity of the agricultural interest?—No.

15971. What would you say was the cause of the great depression in all the productive classes the last twenty years, always excepting the last two years, when you say they have been in an improving state?—I think a part of the causes affecting the productive classes, was the cessation of the war demand, and the withdrawal from circulation of an immense amount of bills drawn in foreign countries upon the English treasury. I think that the tendency of the withdrawal of such an amount of currency as that would constitute, furnished a very strong reason against any measure which would have the effect of further restricting the currency. It always appeared to me that the attention of the Government and the Legislature should have been more directed to prevent an undue restriction consequent upon the cessation of the war demand and the circulation of Treasury bills, than to a more speedy and strict enforcement of that restriction.

15972. Will you go on further to state what further measures took place which had an effect upon productive industry in the years immediately succeeding the war?—The proceedings of the committee on cash payments in 1819, which led to the adoption of a Bill, known by the name of Peel's Bill, I think was one of the leading causes of the great distress that prevailed throughout the productive classes.

15973 Was the effect of that Bill to create a considerable contraction of the

Mr. *Henry Burgess.*

3 June 1836.

circulating medium?—An immediate contraction of the circulating medium; every banker that issued notes, or created bills or circulated bills was immediately constrained to check his operations, and to restrict his customers to a narrower limit of accommodation than previously.

15974. Was the effect of that to produce great distress, both among the agricultural and the manufacturing classes?—Throughout all classes, the shipping as well as the agricultural and manufacturing classes. The shipping interest was astonishingly injured by that measure, and it had the effect which, I think, we are now about perceiving in that interest, of causing them to construct ships of much less firm and durable structure. They were obliged to lower their wages, to employ apprentices instead of skilful artisans, who did that duty; and ships were consequently constructed in a very defective manner; so that the effect of that measure did not apply merely to the manufacturing and agricultural classes, but it affected all pursuits of industry.

15975. Did it not, in fact, extend to the East and West Indies?—Very extensively; the failures that took place in Calcutta, and the failures that took place here among the leading West India merchants, testify to that fact.

15976. In fact, do you consider that, with respect to those princely East India merchants that have failed within 15 years after the passing of the bill of 1819, their failure was to be attributed to that measure?—To the low prices prevailing in England, which took from them that security which they had formerly obtained, and which justified them in making advances to the planters who were employed in raising indigo and other produce; and the extent of it may be gathered from the fact, that the debts of five or six houses in Calcutta amounted altogether to 18,000,000*l.* sterling.

15977. In fact, some of those houses had a capital of 5,000,000*l.* sterling, had they not?—I am not cognizant of the fact.

15978. You have deposed to the distress arising from the contraction of the currency succeeding the Bill of 1819, did not great distress also exist on the contraction of the currency in 1815 and 1816?—Yes, in 1816 there was a similar contraction, not so extensive nor so long continued as that which subsequently took place; and I apprehend that was caused by the preparation which the Bank of England then began to make for resuming cash payments.

15979. Was that intention interrupted in 1817?—Yes, it was.

15980. Was there a larger circulation of money in 1817, in consequence of that interruption?—In 1817 and 1818 a much larger.

15981. Was there a return of prosperity in consequence of that?—Yes, the year 1818 was a year of general prosperity.

15982. Should you state that the Bill of 1819 was a Bill that had been well considered?—From the former answers which I gave, it would appear that my opinion was that that Bill was a most inconsiderate measure, and that it ought to have been preceded by a much more extensive examination of the subject. In consequence of that conviction, which I held as firmly in 1819 as I do now, I made an effort to be examined before the Committee, in which I failed; the ground alleged being that the Committee had determined not to examine witnesses as to the effect of the measure on the productive classes.

15983. But there was an investigation made, and witnesses were summoned before a Select Committee, both of the House of Lords and of the House of Commons; were not those witnesses able to depose as to the state of things, and as to the consequences of such a measure?—It appeared to me that those witnesses were selected from classes very little conversant with the productive interests of the country, with the exception of two persons. If I recollect right, I think there were very few witnesses examined, except such as were connected with commercial affairs in London, such as exchange brokers, loan contractors and London bankers.

15984. Although those men might be very well acquainted with the nature of money, and the consequence of its abundance or its scarcity, did it follow that their interests were immediately identified with those of the productive classes of this country?—They might have interests in direct opposition to the productive classes; I have no doubt that a certain proportion of the persons examined upon that occasion, had interests diametrically opposite to the interests of the productive classes.

15985. Did not the testimony they gave go diametrically against the interests of the productive classes?—Perhaps I may not be sufficiently conversant now with

with the precise character of the testimony they gave to answer that question to the full extent; but the general tendency of their evidence was of that nature.

15986. The tendency of their evidence was materially to increase the value of money, which would be a benefit to them, and a great injury to all the productive classes?—Certainly.

15987. Could you estimate the loss of property which was consequent upon that measure?—No, I think it is impossible to estimate that.

15988. Do you think you could lay your hands upon any Act of Parliament, either in this or in any country, which was so destructive in its nature?—I think I should be at a loss to do so.

15989. Was it the main cause of the fall in all prices, as well agricultural as manufacturing, that took place?—Not the sole cause, but the main cause.

15990. Which suffered most, do you think, and which suffered first, the agricultural interest or the manufacturing?—The manufacturing suffered first and most extensively; intelligent persons in Lancashire have assured me, that nine out of ten of the great manufacturing works then in operation have changed hands since the year 1819, principally in consequence of insolvency.

15991. What is the reason that the manufacturers were swept down by that measure sooner than the agriculturists?—Because their credit and all their pecuniary transactions with bankers were brought immediately into contact with the operations of the Bank of England.

15992. Did, in fact, that Act come into operation at once, or did it come gradually into operation?—It came into immediate operation as far as regards manufacturers, and, generally speaking, all the productive classes of the people.

15993. Would not the immediate operation upon the agricultural classes be interrupted by such a state of things as the landlords reducing rents, and so helping their tenants to meet the fall that took place between 1819 and 1822?—As to those particular classes, it might be interrupted from various causes; the Corn Laws might be one cause; the favourable consideration that the landlords would bestow upon the interest of their tenants would be another cause; and the slow process even of agricultural operations was a third cause.

15994. You have stated already that bills of exchange operate more immediately on prices than any other species of currency; would the withdrawal of a great amount of bills of exchange operate more immediately upon the prices of manufacturing produce?—More immediately upon manufacturing articles than upon agricultural produce.

15995. That would account in some degree for the distress being more immediate among the manufacturing classes than among the agricultural?—I think so.

15996. After the distress had existed for two or three years subsequent to 1819, was not there a measure introduced by Lord Londonderry which tended to enlarge the circulating medium?—Yes, the measure of extending the small note currency from 1823 to 1833.

15997. Was the effect of that measure to produce any mitigation of the distress among the manufacturing and other classes?—It not only produced a great mitigation, but that and other circumstances led to a very high state of prosperity.

15998. Will you state why that state of prosperity was not permanent?—I apprehend that it was checked and its permanency prevented by the interference of the Legislature in the year 1826.

15999. Previous to the year 1826, did not a great commercial stagnation take place, commonly called the panic?—Yes, at the close of 1825.

16000. To what do you attribute that panic?—To the regulations of the Bank of England and the want of proper precautions by that establishment to avert the convulsion that followed the excess of prosperity to which I have alluded.

16001. Will you state in detail the circumstances which led to the panic of 1825?—One of the leading circumstances that led to the panic of 1825 was the great stimulation given to all the productive interests in the year 1824, by the impression that they received from Government that our prosperity was based upon a durable foundation; they were consequently not prepared to expect that they would be suddenly checked in the career of industry and prosperity by anything arising out of the proceedings of Government, and I imagine that the subsequent convulsion was greatly owing to the Government not understanding the opera-

Mr. *Henry Burgess.*

3 June 1836.

tion of their own measure, which compelled the Bank of England to provide a sufficient amount of gold to pay its obligations.

16002. What did the Government do, or what did the bank do, or what did the gold standard in 1825 do, to check the progress of the prosperity?—The bank, finding the gold leaving the country, and their own stock of that material extremely low, were obliged suddenly to contract their circulation of notes in order to save themselves from stopping payments in gold.

16003. What made the gold begin to go in the beginning of 1825?—In consequence of the high range of prices prevailing in this country, it became the interest of all persons having remittances to make abroad to send gold, which remained unchanged in its value, instead of manufactured goods or colonial produce.

16004. Must that always be the consequence of a high state of prices resulting from an enlarged issue, that the gold will leave this country, and that the Bank will be obliged to withdraw its issues?—Always; it is taking place now with respect to the United States of America.

16005. Do you state that generally, or do you confine your observation to the present standard of value?—I confine my observation to the existing regulations by which the Bank of England is compelled to discharge its obligations in gold.

16006. Then is it your opinion that the higher range of prices with which the productive classes are generally led to couple a state of prosperity, is inconsistent with the present standard of value?—Decidedly so, speaking of a permanent state of things.

16007. Can you conceive of any other standard of value which would be equally secure as the present, and which would keep the range of prices more consistent with the prosperity of the productive classes?—I imagine that a standard of silver alone would accomplish that object, or the old standard, which enabled a debtor to pay at his option either in gold or silver.

16008. Will you explain what is the advantage of silver over gold as a standard?—Silver abounds more throughout the world; its production is much more easily stimulated; it is an article of more extensive commerce; it is less liable to be hoarded in periods of disturbance and alarm, or to be locked up in military chests, and it forms consequently a much larger basis for a circulation of paper to be founded upon.

16009. Then you think that a sufficient quantity of paper could rest upon a silver standard to produce such a range of prices as would give prosperity to the productive classes?—I think it would give prosperity to a considerable extent.

16010. Do you think that the present state of things, which has an appearance or a semblance of prosperity, will be one of a permanent nature?—I think not; it is always liable to interruption from causes previously adverted to, namely, in an adverse state of exchanges gold would be demanded for balancing our accounts with foreign countries, and cause the bank to contract its issues of paper.

16011. Do you think that the present range of prices is sufficient to drive out the gold?—That is a question with which the state of supply of the raw materials is very much connected. If the supply of the raw materials were in the same proportion as it was twenty years ago it would have had that effect long since; but I apprehend the rise of prices of the raw materials and of manufactured goods is partly owing to the great deficiency of supply compared with the demand.

16012. But if there should be a deficiency in the supply of wheat the next harvest, do you think that would tend to bring on a crisis in the money market?—Decidedly it must have that effect, if the deficiency were great.

16013. Do you conceive the present standard to be what Lord Ashburton called it (then Mr. Baring), a fair weather system, which cannot bear a storm?—It always appeared to me such.

16014. You have stated the effect of a diminution of the circulating medium upon the productive classes of the country; have you paid considerable attention to the state of the circulating medium of foreign countries?—No, I cannot profess to have paid considerable attention; I am aware of some of the changes that have taken place in the circulations of different countries.

16015. Will you state, generally speaking, whether in the continental countries

tries the circulating medium has been increased or diminished since the war?—Very greatly increased in most of the states on the Continent of Europe.

16016. Whilst ours has been diminished?—Yes.

16017. Has there been, accompanying that increase of the circulating medium, an improvement in their productive industry?—A great extension and improvement in all productive industry.

16018. In 1815, at the close of the war, had foreign countries as large or a larger circulation of paper than they ever had had before?—I believe the circulation of paper has increased in almost all countries of the continent, perhaps less in France than in any other, but there it has increased.

16019. Even in 1815, at the period at which the question commences, had they not a larger circulating medium of paper than they had had at any antecedent period?—I should think that, with the exception of Russia and Prussia, other states engaged in war had a less circulation in 1815, than they have had subsequently.

16020. Had Austria less?—I believe Austria had not.

16021. Had Russia and Prussia then a larger circulation than they had ever had before?—Yes.

16022. Would the exceptions you would make be France, Spain, the Italian States and Turkey?—Yes; Turkey never had much paper circulation.

16023. Do you happen to know the quantity of money that France has coined since the termination of the war?—I forget the exact amount.

16024. Do you remember whether it is eighty-five millions sterling?—I was going to say, according to my recollection, eighty millions.

16025. Do you remember whether the business of the Bank of France has very much increased of late?—The business of the Bank of France doubled in the year 1834 the business of 1833.

16026. Was there a great stagnation of industry in France immediately succeeding the revolution of 1830?—An almost unprecedented stagnation, and it continued for a much longer period than stagnations in industry generally do continue.

16027. At this moment, and since the enlargement of the circulation, has productive industry been in a more prosperous state in France?—I understand that all the great interests of production in France are in a very satisfactory state of prosperity.

16028. Speaking of the United States of America, what has been the state of their circulating medium since 1815?—A very great increase since the year 1816, when the United States Bank was chartered, and that mainly owing to the judicious conduct of that bank.

16029. Have they not, since that period, discouraged the issue of any paper of less amount than five dollars?—The Bank of the United States has not for many years issued any paper for a less amount than five dollars. In the State of Pennsylvania the circulation of all notes under the value of five dollars has been, by an Act of the State Legislature, prohibited; but I think that species of circulation has been discouraged in two or three of the other states at most.

16030. Do you remember whether the circulation of the United States was about 45,000,000 of dollars in 1815, and now amounts to 98,000,000 of dollars?—That agrees with the return I have seen of the amount of the circulation of the United States at those dates.

16031. Do you conceive that this is the secret which explains the extinction of their public debt, and accounts for the extraordinary developement of their vast internal sources of wealth now in progress?—The Americans pursued an opposite course to ourselves. At the date referred to, namely 1815, they were incumbered with a considerable debt like Great Britain, but then they took an opposite course in extending their paper circulation, and in fact depreciating their currency, which stimulated industry and promoted commercial enterprise, and consequently rendered the burden of the debt light and easy to be discharged.

16032. Although the currency was nominally convertible into bullion, was it virtually in a state of convertibility?—No; except in very particular and extreme cases. As a general proposition, I should answer no, decidedly; because all persons disturbing the credit and interfering with the processes of banking were marked in society, and would have lost caste if they had preferred rigorously demands for silver upon the banks.

Mr. *Henry Burgess.*

3 June 1836.

16033. Then in fact it was almost a restriction upon cash payments?—Virtually, I should say it was.

16034. Should you say that that virtual system of restriction existed also for some period in Scotland?—Yes, till very lately, Scotland was by the habits of the people almost secured against any demand for coin.

16035. Would not the moral indignation of the country have been raised against persons who systematically applied for gold in Scotland?—They would have been marked as mischievous persons, who were taking proceedings opposed to the interest of their neighbours.

16036. Did not that amount in Scotland equally to a general restriction upon the demand for gold, and would it not increase also the power of the banks to afford accommodation?—I believe I am correct in stating the fact, that at no period could the banks of Scotland legally resist payment in gold if it were demanded; and if their notes had been preferred at the counter, and payment in gold demanded at any time during our bank restriction, the bank that issued them would have been obliged to comply with the demand; but that no such demand was preferred, though the guinea was at one time worth 28*s.*, and any person enforcing the demand upon the bank could have made 6*s.* profit by the enforcement.

16037. You stated that the moral indignation of the country would have been excited against any parties in Scotland who had made a systematic demand for gold upon a Scotch bank; can you give any instances of that?—I spoke of a pre-existing state of things; I do not say that the same thing would take place now in Scotland, because the circulation of gold is much more prevalent than it was.

16038. Can you give any instances in which such displays of indignation took place?—No, I cannot as to names or dates.

16039. Speaking of other states, the circulation of Sweden is almost entirely paper, is it not?—The largest metallic circulation is, I believe, a coin of the value of four-pence.

16040. Has there been any diminution of the circulating medium in Sweden since the year 1815?—I believe there has been no diminution, but on the contrary a little increase; but the circulation of Sweden is regulated by commissioners appointed by the Government, and consequently there is great uniformity in the circulation.

16041. Do you know any circulating medium that is more equable in its nature than the circulation of Sweden?—None whatever, if I have been accurately informed.

16042. Are there not two national banks in Sweden?—I do not know the number; I think it is more than two.

16043. The notes can neither be withdrawn nor issued without the consent of Government?—Or under the regulations of the commissioners.

16044. Accompanying this equable state of the circulation, and accompanying the fact of there being no diminution, has there been prosperity in Sweden during this period?—Great prosperity and universal satisfaction with the Government among the productive classes.

16045. Have the same circumstances occurred in Russia; has there been any diminution of the circulating medium in Russia?—I believe, on the contrary, there has been an increase; a great many of the notes that were circulating during the war have been called in on account of forgeries, but their place has been supplied by other notes to an equal extent; and then the establishment of banks in various of the large towns of Russia has economized the use of money, greatly facilitated the distribution of capital, and promoted the prosperity of the country.

16046. The Imperial Commercial Bank of Russia has branches at all the principal cities, has it not?—I think at most of the principal cities; at Odessa upon the one side and Archangel upon the other, and at Moscow.

16047. Those means have been brought into action within the last 20 years, have they not?—Yes, principally.

16048. Has their effect been to promote industry, to increase and multiply productions, and to augment the wealth of the country?—Very extensively.

16049. Has there at the same time been raised up a powerful monied interest with objects at variance with the productive classes?—I am not aware that there has.

16050. Do all recent travellers describe the increased industry and improvement of Russia as exceeding those of any other country, except the United States of America?—Yes.

16051. Has it come to your knowledge that the Emperor of Russia takes great interest in the establishment of banks, and in sustaining the proper amount of circulating medium?—Yes, I understand so.

16052. Has Prussia also acted upon those principles of not reducing its circulating medium since the war?—I believe so. The Prussian government has given very great facilities for the obtaining of capital by the agricultural classes, through the institution of a public company.

16053. Is there not a loan bank established in Prussia of late years which lends to the agricultural classes during a state of low prices, and has not that been of great advantage to the agricultural classes?—I do not know whether it is called a loan bank, the See-Handland Company is the title it goes by.

16054. Does that company enable the producer to hold stock for a more advantageous market?—Yes, it serves the purposes of capital to the farmer, by enabling him to keep up the cultivation of the land, while he holds stock over markets unnaturally depressed.

16055. And still enables him to continue his payments to the state and the proprietors of the land?—Yes.

16056. Do you know anything of the internal condition of Holland as connected with its circulating medium?—Not much, but the fact of the King taking a very great interest in all commercial enterprises, and being in fact a partner in a great many of them, would lead to the conclusion that whatever tends to extend production and facilitate commerce would be promoted by the Government of Holland.

16057. Do you think that, as a producer himself or as engaged in productive industry, he is inclined to look more favourably to productive industry generally than to the monied interests?—To the productive and commercial interests of the country, certainly.

16058. Do you know any thing of Austria as connected with its trade and its circulating medium?—Only generally.

16059. Was not the Austrian money very much depreciated at the close of the war?—Yes.

16060. Did Austria or did any of the countries you have named pursue the same system that we did, namely, to go back to an appreciated currency, or did they continue their depreciated currency?—I am not precisely aware with respect to Austria of the relative values of the paper currency and of the metallic currency; I think the paper currency was regulated after the war in the proportions of about three to one of the metallic.

16061. In the Prussian, the Austrian and the Russian dominions, have the prices of the productions of those countries and the wages of workmen, in a general sense, undergone much variation since 1815?—I believe there has been very little change in those matters in the countries referred to.

16062. Either estimated in the metallic money or in their paper money?—As I said before, the proportions of value of metallic money and of paper money have been settled, and therefore estimated; in either I believe the change has been very immaterial.

16063. If any person makes a bargain, he makes the bargain either in paper or in metallic money; if he makes it in paper money, he pays two and a half paper florins for one silver florin?—I believe that is the case.

16064. Do you conceive that there is in the other countries that have been named the same sort of interest as exists in this country, namely, a monied interest, which in co-operation with the Government tends to be a sort of incubus upon the productive interests of the country?—There may be such an interest rising up in France and in the United States, but I should think in those countries alone to any extent which threatens to be prejudicial to other interests.

16065. Have not the measures of General Jackson been with a view to interfere with that state of things in the United States?—That was the avowed object; whether they have accomplished the purpose that he intended or not remains to be proved; I do not think they have.

16066. Do you think that the monied interest of France has any great effect upon the legislative Acts?—I am not competent to give a decided answer to

Mr. Henry Burgess. June 1836.

that question; I believe the Bank of France exercises a very material influence with the Government.

16067. Do you think the Bank of England has any influence with the Government here?—Very great.

16068. In what way do you think that it operates?—As bankers for the state and as agents for paying the Government obligations, they must have constant intercourse with the Treasury, and out of that intercourse arises naturally a high degree of influence. The Government and the bank are almost identified in interest.

16069. Then would you state generally, that with the present standard of value there is no security for prosperity, either to the agricultural or to the manufacturing classes?—I should not say so of the manufacturing classes, but I should of the agricultural.

16070. Why would you draw a distinction between them?—Because insolvency among manufacturers produced its worst effects between the years 1816 and 1827, and since the latter year they have been gaining strength; and I apprehend that the manufacturing interests can prosper under a very low range of prices.

16071. Do you conceive that the manufacturing interests have advantages with us not possessed by the agricultural interest in this country?—Decidedly.

16072. Will you state what you conceive those to be?—The great facility of commencing operations, or of taking up operations afresh after the parties have been broken down, is a distinctive feature of the manufacturing interest, which is quite different from any which exists in the landed interest. All the processes of the landed interest are slow, and the returns of the producers small and periodical, and they are not affected in the same degree by the operation of the same causes.

16073. Is not the landed interest the only interest which is entirely operated upon by home legislative measures?—Almost entirely; at least it has less power of evading or escaping from a general pressure affecting its permanent prosperity.

16074. Has not the manufacturing interest an extraneous source of demand, viz. in the foreign trade?—Yes.

16075. If there be a great increase in the foreign trade contemporaneously with a great decline in the home market, may not that tend in some degree to compensate for the decline in the home market?—Certainly.

16076. Has not such increase of the foreign trade taken place contemporaneously with the decline of our agricultural market?—Yes it has.

16077. The *O'Conor Don.*] Was not the facility with which farmers formerly obtained credit rather the consequence than the cause of their prosperity?—It was both cause and effect.

16078. Do not you think the character of the investment for which money is required is as much considered by the lender as the character of the individual that borrows it?—Not amongst country bankers; I think the character for industry and integrity of the borrower was the principal thing looked at before the change in the money regulations of the country. And it was a better security while prosperity was equable and permanent, because it not only secured the debt but provided for future enlarged transactions with the borrower, which yielded additional profit.

16079. Do you think that the farmer would not now receive equally extensive credit if the bankers considered that the investment of capital in farming would be as productive as it was formerly?—No; they would not receive the same accommodation now as they did prior to 1819.

16080. Why not?—Because the banker is now obliged to keep in possession instruments that may be readily converted for his own use, and the farmer not dealing in bills of exchange, has no means of giving the banker those instruments that he can easily convert into gold in case of necessity. It is not merely having securities, as it was during the war, that is required, but they must be such as are marketable and will produce gold.

16081. *Chairman.*] You spoke of a deficiency of capital in the agricultural districts; are you aware that in a great many parts of England considerable improvements have been going on in agriculture; that a quantity of poor light land had been brought into cultivation by artificial manure, and a great deal of land brought into cultivation by means of draining?—I am aware that such has been the case to a very great extent, but I apprehend that those improvements existed most extensively prior to the passing of the Bill of 1819.

16082. If you were informed that they were going on to this day, should you

you consider that as any evidence of a deficiency of capital in the agricultural districts?—Not as regarded those comparatively small portions of the land to which the questions refer; upon these there may be no remarkable deficiency of capital; but upon the cold clay soils I know that the deficiency of capital has had this effect, that soils exceedingly well adapted for grazing purposes have been taken from that use and broken up for the growing of corn, oats, wheat and beans, for which they were not so well adapted, and the farmers had not sufficient capital to bring them into a proper state for growing corn.

16083. Do you think, if every facility were given to the farmer to enable him to borrow capital, that he could, considering the great uncertainty of the trade of farming, from the chances of seasons and other causes, afford to cultivate land upon borrowed capital, having the interest of that capital to pay, and his rent?—I think the want of capital prevents his cultivating the land to the best advantage, and one of the effects resulting from his inability to keep the stock best adapted for his land is the present high price of butcher's meat. A farm employed for grazing purposes would require three times the capital that it would for farming purposes; and I think the chief cause of the very high prices of butcher's meat is to be ascribed to the want of capital in the farmer to keep that description of stock.

16084. Are you aware whether there is any distress among the grazing farmers at present?—Distress has prevailed among the grazing farmers in the grazing districts of Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Huntingdonshire and Northamptonshire for some years; it has been less for 18 months past than it was for two or three years previous to that date.

16085. Is not the greatest extent of distress to be found amongst the occupiers of the cold and wet unimproved clay soils?—I should think so; those soils are very extensively cultivated by the class of graziers to whom I have referred.

16086. Do you think there is anything in the system of banking in Scotland that would give the Scotch farmers great advantages over the English farmers?—Very decided advantages. The security that the Scotch banker has against runs, and the regulated pretty high rate of profit which the Scotch bankers can command, to which the use of small notes instead of gold greatly contributes, are reasons why the Scotch banker is more ready to grant accommodation than the English banker; and the practice in Scotland is much more universal of giving cash credits to farmers. It is in England not in such extensive and almost universal practice as it is in Scotland.

16087. Do you mean to say that the profits of the Scotch banker are at a higher rate than the profits of the English banker?—They are more securely obtained; I do not know that, speaking in detail, the rate of profit upon a particular transaction is higher in Scotland than in England, but they are better secured, and in consequence of that, and the profit from the circulation of small notes, their transactions among farmers are generally more extensive.

16088. Why are they more secured?—From the habits of the Scotch people, from their greater economy, and because they freely join one another in giving bond, because they look at the banks as their all-sufficient protectors.

16089. Do not you think that the facilities with which the farmer in Scotland can get a loan from a Scotch bank is mainly to be attributed to his being a man of capital, whereas in England there are a great number that are not men of capital?—Except in the Lothians and Dumfriesshire I should not think that the farmers in general are more remarkable for the possession of capital than the farmers of most parts of England.

16090. You said that a general impression prevailed that the agricultural interests, both in England and Scotland, are very much depressed; are you aware whether they are depressed or not in Scotland?—I am aware only from conversation with Scotch bankers, who have great connections with all the productive classes, but more particularly with the landed interest; they describe the depression as very extensive. I imagine, however, the distress in Scotland is less than it is in England.

16091. If you were informed, as the Committee have been informed, that there is no such thing in Scotland now as agricultural distress, that almost all the farmers are in a state of prosperity, how should you account for that?—I cannot account for it according to any information that I possess, because one of the most eminent bankers in Scotland told me some time since that he had

Mr. *Henry Burgess.*

3 June 1836.

no doubt that one-third of the occupiers of land in Scotland were insolvent at that moment.

16092 Mr. *Attwood.*] Are your communications extensive with persons connected with Scotch affairs?—Not extensive as to the number of persons, but I think extensive as to the sources of information to which I have access.

16093. *Chairman.*] Would you not consider the evidence of the farmers themselves more satisfactory than the evidence of the banker as to their state of prosperity or of distress at the present moment?—If the evidence of the farmer were given in a manner totally unbiassed by personal considerations affecting his own position, I should consider it much better.

16094. Do you consider that it is an advantage to a farmer, especially one who is about to renew his lease, to describe his state to be more prosperous than it actually is?—It would not at all surprise me if the majority of the applicants for farms were so to describe themselves; the anxiety to become possessed of land is so great that they will resort to expedients of that nature for the purpose of recommending themselves to the possessors of the land.

16095. Would not the direct effect of that be to lead the landlord to demand a much higher rent?—I imagine that the cultivators of land are more anxious to get into the possession of the land, trusting to making arrangements with the landlords if the speculation should prove unfortunate.

16096. Mr. *Attwood.*] Is it the custom of traders in like manner to represent their situation as more prosperous than it really is?—I am sorry to say that is a habit far too prevalent.

16097. Has it increased of late years?—I should think upon the whole it has increased of late years; it generally increases in proportion to the pressure and anxiety a man has to retain his position in society. I beg leave to amend the answer that I gave with respect to the Scotch farmers; I spoke of the present time, and I know that there are circumstances now in operation which have materially amended the condition of the Scotch farmer since the testimony which I adduced of the banker respecting the insolvent state of a portion of them was given to me.

16098. *Chairman.*] What are those circumstances?—The high price of wool, the high price of butcher's meat and of barley and oats; the prices of all those commodities were at a much lower level than they are now, and the crops in the last two years have been better in Scotland than they have been on the average in England; and, therefore, I conceive that the condition of the Scotch farmer has been a good deal improved during the last twelve months or two years.

16099. Would not a rise in the prices of those commodities have an equally beneficial effect upon the English farmer?—And it has had in proportion to their bearing; but the produce of the Scotch farmer consists in a much greater degree of wool than that of the English farmer generally, except in the grazing districts.

16100. Do you mean to say that the Scotch farmers have a greater stock of sheep upon their farms than the English farmers?—The interest of a breeding farmer in Scotland depends much more extensively upon the price of his wool than it does in England, except in some particular districts, such as Lincolnshire and the great grazing counties where long-wooled sheep are kept.

16101. Are the grazing counties particularly distinguished for having the largest stock of sheep; are not the sheep generally disposed over the countries where there is a light arable soil?—The great grazing districts are distinguished for a large stock of sheep growing a great quantity of wool, the long-wool sheep; and I therefore distinguished them from the others because the question related to the high price of the productions of agriculture and the price of wool has been relatively higher than all.

16102. Mr. *Cayley.*] Have not the Scotch farmers had of late years a great facility by steam navigation for sending up their stock, both live and dead, to the English market?—Yes, a great quantity of butchers' meat now comes by steam-boats to London, and this enables the Scotch farmer to make more of his produce.

16103. Have you ever had any conversation with persons in different districts likely to know the situation of the landlords?—I have frequently conversed with land valuers in very extensive practice.

16104. Have you had much conversation with attornies who are conversant with

with the affairs of landlords in their respective neighbourhoods?—Yes, in several cases where attornies were bankers.

16105. Can you state what is the state of the incumbrances upon the landed proprietors generally?—In one of the largest, and, as I should have apprehended, the most wealthy counties in England, distinguished above others, as I should have supposed, for the independence of its landlords and its yeomen, I have been told by an attorney of great practice, that the estates were mortgaged to one-third of the value, taking the whole county together.

16106. *Chairman.*] What county is that?—Cheshire.

16107. Mr. *Cayley.*] Do you suppose that the Scotch farmers have any advantage in the 1*l.* notes that the bankers circulate?—The Scotch farmers have a very great advantage in acquiring the capital they want, resulting from the profit which the bankers derive from the circulation of 1*l.* notes.

16108. Of course if that gives an advantage to the farmer in Scotland it would give an advantage to the farmer in England also, if he could have the same means of accommodation?—Yes; if the bankers of England could by any means obtain the same exemption from paying their notes in gold that the Scotch bankers have virtually obtained.

16109. From the attention you have given to banking affairs do you see any valid objection to a return to 1*l.* notes in England?—It is a question more for the Government to consider than for me to give an opinion upon.

16110. Do you mean to say that it is a question for the Government, as being the protectors of the interests of the people?—Yes.

16111. Or do you mean to say that it is a question for the Government, because they appear to have a preconceived opinion upon the subject?—It strikes me as a great political question for the Government and the Legislature to consider; I perhaps ought to say that the country bankers generally are decidedly opposed to the circulation of 1*l.* notes.

16112. Do you think the country bankers may not feel a great delicacy in advocating the system of 1*l.* notes, because it may be thought that it tends to their own interest?—They may feel that, but I am persuaded that their objection is more connected with their practice as bankers; they have found that runs upon bankers generally come through the medium of demands for the payment of 1*l.* notes.

16113. Do you think that objection is as valid now as it was before the introduction of the legal tender clause in the Bank Charter Act in 1833?—The demand for the payment of 1*l.* notes might be so shaped as to evade the legal tender clause, consequently they would be precluded from availing themselves of that in meeting demands under 5*l.* But I believe the bankers consider the operation of that clause to be of advantage to them.

16114. Do you think if there was a silver standard the danger of an issue of 1*l.* notes would be as great?—I do not.

16115. Do you think that with a silver standard 1*l.* notes might be safely issued in England?—Much more safely than at present.

16116. Do you think if 1*l.* notes were established it would materially tend to accelerate any commercial crisis under a standard of silver?—Confining my answer to the immediate influence, I do not think that it would materially have such tendency.

16117. Can in fact a country banker very materially, as a general principle, increase his circulation unless the Bank of England sets him the example?—Not for any long period of time.

16118. When it is said that the country bankers are the initiative in an enlargement of the currency, you think that, as a general principle, may be said to be a mistake?—I think so.

16119. Can you conceive of any security or protection, or check upon the issue of 1*l.* notes that might at all tend to obviate any danger that you think would accrue from the re-establishment of 1*l.* notes?—It always appeared to me that inasmuch as 1*l.* notes are used principally for the payment of wages, and the receivers have no option in rejecting or accepting that description of currency, they ought to possess absolute security, and that the banks should be compellable to give security for that particular part of their currency, whereas 5*l.*, 10*l.*, or 20*l.* notes are received by persons who have the option of rejecting or receiving; but it is not so with labourers.

16120. Then you conceive the distinction to be drawn between the 1*l.* notes and

Mr. *Henry Burgess.*

3 June 1836.

and notes of a superior denomination is, that the persons generally possessing the notes of a higher denomination may be called capitalists; and that the persons who possess 1*l.* notes may be generally said to be of the labouring classes; and that you think the labouring classes, who are not likely to be cognizant of the affairs of the bankers, ought to be protected against the 1*l.* notes?—I do.

16121. But do you think, even with that security given, the 1*l.* notes would still be a great advantage, as a means of circulation?—Yes, if the banks had the option of paying them in silver.

16122. Then in fact they might become a substitute for gold, with a silver standard?—In a great measure.

16123. Mr. *Attwood.*] When 1*l.* notes were allowed to be issued by law, did the bankers show any reluctance to avail themselves of that power?—I should think at least nine out of ten of the then existing bankers were issuers of 1*l.* notes.

16124. Do you think that if a power were given them again, nine out of the ten of the now existing bankers would issue 1*l.* notes?—Many of them would unquestionably be driven to that, by the competition of their neighbours.

16125. Is it done in Ireland and Scotland by every bank in existence that has the power?—I am not competent to answer that question as to every bank; but my impression is, that it is done by all the bankers.

16126. You said that you thought a silver standard coined after the old standard of value of 5*s.* 2*d.* to the ounce, would sustain a higher range of prices in the country than the present standard can sustain?—I do.

16127. Have you considered the question, whether silver so coined and made a legal tender, would have any effect upon a gold circulation?—I imagine that, according to the present Mint regulations, it would have the effect of displacing gold, because the proportions have not been settled according to the just proportions of the two metals.

16128. Therefore you think that silver, if it were coined according to the old proportion of silver at 5*s.* 2*d.*, and of gold at 3*l.* 17*s.* 10½*d.* to the ounce, it would have the effect of displacing gold, unless the proportions were readjusted?—I do.

16129. Would the readjustment, which should retain gold in circulation, be one which should put a higher nominal value upon the circulating gold?—A higher nominal value upon the circulating gold, to make it in proportion to silver.

16130. Are you acquainted with what has been done in the United States of America, in order to induce a circulation of gold coin, along with the circulation of silver coin, at the old rate?—The American Government, after very elaborate inquiries into the matter, determined, I believe, to depreciate the gold about six per cent. to make it correspond in circulation to silver; and since that alteration, gold has come gradually into more general use, and the circulation of gold is extending at this moment.

16131. The American Government depreciated their gold coin to the extent of about six per cent.; is that about what would be necessary in this country to make gold circulate along with silver at the ancient standard?—I am not aware of the exact proportion of gold and silver existing in our coins, and therefore I cannot answer the question.

16132. Are you aware that, in America, there are measures in progress for abolishing the small paper circulation?—I have no doubt, from letters which I have seen, that the circulation of all notes under the value of five dollars will be suppressed within two years in all the states.

16133. Those small notes having been in circulation in America for a considerable period?—Notes so small as one dollar, and even half a dollar, having been in circulation in all the states except three or four.

16134. Is the American national debt now paid off?—Yes.

16135. Does it follow then that the Americans did not adopt any measure for reducing their small paper circulation till the debt was paid?—It appears that the Americans did not deem it expedient to take any measures for increasing their circulation of metallic money till after they had become discharged of their debt.

16136. Mr. *Evans.*] If gold and silver currency were permitted to exist together, would it not require a constant interference of the Legislature or of Government

ment to set a value upon the difference of the two coins; for instance, the mines in America may furnish at one time more silver, and at another time more gold; would not it require a constant interference to fix the relative value of the two coins?—There would occasionally be fluctations resulting from having two metals from that cause, and particularly from causes which would probably come into more sudden operation, such as great demands for the supply of military chests in contemplation of war. Many causes might produce fluctuation in the respective current values of the two metals.

16137. Would not it lead to a great deal of jobbing in the two currencies if the two currencies were permitted to exist together?—I am not aware that it would be likely to produce that effect as a permanent state of things. That there would be speculations at times in one or other metal is quite evident, but as the payer would have the option of paying his debt either in gold or in silver, I cannot see that speculation on one metal would be likely to produce so much derangement as speculation would produce at present.

16138. Do you consider that there is a strict analogy between the farmer and the merchant with respect to their making favourable statements of their profits and their capital?—The operation of that motive is more universal among farmers than amongst merchants; my evidence as regarded merchants went to distinguish merchants under critical circumstances, when perhaps their own position in life might be endangered by the account that they would give of their own circumstances.

16139. The farmer has only one person to mislead and the merchant has the whole public?—Yes.

16140. Mr. *Cayley*.] A conjoint standard existed for many years before 1816, did it not?—Yes; by law a conjoint standard existed, but the actual standard in practice was a very uncertain one at all times.

16141. In what respect?—Because the practical standard in operation consisted of debased metal money; the silver standard in fact consisted of shillings very much deteriorated by wear, which still passed current, and I believe were held in law as legal tenders when much defaced by wearing.

16142. But any standard of metal is liable to that unless you have a constant recoining?—Yes; I only meant that the actual value was very much affected by those circumstances to which I have adverted.

16143. Mr. *Attwood*.] You apprehend that the precious metals are liable to fluctuations in their quantity, and consequently in their value, from one period to another, either gold or silver?—Yes.

16144. Does it follow from that, that if the metal which is the standard of value should become scarce, less in quantity and higher in value, that would produce an alteration in prices, and existing contracts would be varied?—Undoubtedly.

16145. That must happen whether we have one metal or two metals as the standard of value?—Whenever a contraction of the supply from any cause takes place.

16146. The precious metals may, one or both of them, become more or less profitable; can they vary also in their relative values and quantities one to the other?—Certainly; all history furnishes evidence of that.

16147. Do you consider that gold may at one time become cheaper than silver, and at another time dearer than silver, and *vice versa*?—Yes.

16148. Was the ancient law of this country one which gave to a person who had money to pay the right of paying in that money which was the cheapest at the time that the payment was made?—Certainly.

16149. That was the right of the debtor by the old standard?—At all times, with the exception of a few years, I think not more than ten, when he was restricted to the payment of 25*l.* in silver from the year 1774 to the year 1784.

16150. Does it follow that the law which took away that right from a person that had money to pay, would be a law that would inflict injustice upon him?—Very extensive injustice.

16151. If he had to pay money on a contract or a lease, would it in effect falsify that contract and that lease?—Unquestionably.

16152. Mr. *Cayley*.] If a scarcity of either of the precious metals may produce this vitiation of contracts, would it not be a great protection to the party who has to pay, to have the option of paying in either one or the other metal?—A very great protection.

Mr. *Henry Burgess.*

3 June 1836.

16153. Then if silver became very scarce, you think the faith of contracts would be preserved if they had power to pay in gold?—Yes.

16154. There is a greater improbability of both of the precious metals becoming scarce at the same time, than of one becoming scarce, and therefore the option of paying in either would be a great protection?—Undoubtedly.

16155. Mr. *Attwood.*] Does it follow from what you have just stated, that when the Act for introducing cash payments abolished the right of the debtor to pay in silver, and confined his payment to the one metal, and that the dearest, that it not only did not introduce the ancient standard of value, but that it introduced one which bears harder upon the debtor than the present standard would have done?—Unquestionably; it is aggravated also by other regulations that were enforced about the same period, that of the prohibition against melting the coin of the realm, or against exporting the coin of the realm. We know that previous to the restriction of cash payments in 1797, the market price of gold frequently rose much higher than the standard price. I believe that in 1795 the price of gold was as high as 81*s.* the ounce, and there have been various dates at which the price of gold in the market has been much higher than the standard price, but that did not produce a disturbance of the circulation, because merchants of credit would not employ their capital in an illicit traffic, and because the debtor could pay in either metal.

16156. Then the standard that was introduced into the country by the Act of 1819, you consider to be one differing essentially from the old standard of the country?—In many essential particulars so much so as to make it a much more stringent and oppressive measure than it appears on the surface.

16157. Would you speak decidedly on this point, that a lower scale of agricultural prices must be the effect of the present system, than what would take place if the old standard with all its laws had been introduced in 1819?—I should answer that question decidedly in the affirmative, but for the greater facilities of the interchange of money which the ramifications of the banking system have introduced.

16158. Would not all those facilities have equally existed and have produced an equally extensive effect under the old standard if it had been introduced, as under the new standard?—Undoubtedly, but I alluded to the greater facilities that have been in recent years afforded for the interchange of money, which did not exist to the same extent previous to the restriction upon cash payments in 1797.

16159. But which would have existed equally if cash payments had been restored to the old standard of value?—Yes.

16160. Therefore, it follows that the abolishing of the old standard by the Act of 1819 has established a lower range of prices permanently, and on the average for agricultural products than the old standard would have given, and has vitiated all contracts which existed prior to that time?—It appears to me that those effects have followed the conjoint operation of the two Acts of 1816 and 1819.

16161. Mr. *Cayley.*] You would state that that was the effect of the Bill of 1816, which came into operation in 1819?—The Bill of 1816, which for the first time made gold the exclusive legal tender for all sums above 40*s.* was, and would have remained, a dead letter, but for some such Act as that of 1819.

16162. Do you conceive that in this case there was a double effect upon prices; that if when we resumed cash payments we had resumed them upon the basis of the old standard, then we should have had a certain range of prices higher than has since existed; and that Mr. Peel's Bill, which enforced a return to cash payments from a state of great abundance of paper, also caused an immense variation of prices?—Yes, there has been a double effect produced by the conjoint operations of the two Acts of 1816 and 1819.

16163. In fact that Mr. Peel's Bill, which appeared to return to the old standard, did not really return to the old standard, and if we had returned to the old standard, then so much of the effect of Mr. Peel's Bill would have been neutralized, as we should have had the higher range of prices which existed under the old standard?—Speaking of the permanent effects that followed the Acts of 1816 and 1819, the mischief of the Act of 1819 was greatly aggravated by the change in the standard of value established by the Act of 1816.

16164. The old standard price of silver was 5*s.* 2*d.*, if bankers had the power of issuing paper now at 5*s.* 2*d.* they would have a facility and power to issue more

more paper with security than they can now under the present gold standard?—They would have a much greater facility in providing the means of payment, and they would not have the same apprehension of demands being poured in upon them.

16165. That would be in consequence of the physical obstructions which silver would present; but taking into consideration the difference in the price of silver between 5*s.* 2*d.*, the mint price, and 4*s.* 11*d.*, the market price, that would constitute so much depreciation of the standard?—Yes.

16166. And they would be able to issue more paper in consequence of such depreciation?—Yes.

16167. What additional advantages do you think the bankers had, in consequence of the law against melting and against the export of the coin?—That the coined money of the realm was retained in the country where it was intended to operate as the measure of value, and was not liable to be withdrawn from circulation for the purpose of being exported; very few persons having the temerity to engage in that contraband trade.

16168. Then the Bank having confidence that few people would engage in such a trade, would feel greater security against a run upon them?—Yes.

16169. To what extent do you suppose that would operate, if the depreciation of the standard would enable the banker securely to issue more paper at 5*s.* 2*d.*; do you think that in addition to that the law against the melting and export of coin would be equivalent to a depreciation of the standard to 5*s.* 6*d.*?—I think it would.

16170. And if we were now to have a silver standard, and 5*s.* 6*d.* was by law to be made the price of silver, would you conceive that silver at that price was more, taking all the circumstances into consideration, than equivalent to the ancient standard of value?—I should conceive it decidedly not more.

16171. Then if we had that standard of value 5*s.* 6*d.*, accompanied with 1*l.* notes, under any reasonable system of protection to the labouring class, what do you think would be the effect upon prices?—I have always estimated the effect upon prices, from the operation of these several circumstances, to be equal to 15 per cent.

16172. Should you say at the least or at the most?—I should say 15 per cent.

16173. Mr. *Attwood.*] In America, in order to adjust gold to silver, you stated that they have depreciated the gold about six per cent.; have they done that after a careful examination of the metals?—The most laborious and scientific investigation that ever came under my attention. If any proceeding referring to coinage and currency can produce certainty, the proceedings of the American Government upon this subject must accomplish that effect.

16174. Would you infer from that, that to regulate the two metals accurately in this country an alteration of about 6 per cent. would be required in the value of gold?—I am not sufficiently conversant with the mint and the market prices of gold and silver to answer the question, but it appears to me that it would be about 6 per cent.; that is, a depreciation of gold coin to the extent of somewhere about 6 per cent.

16175. Does it follow therefore that gold has become dearer by about 6 per cent. during a recent period?—During the last 30 or 40 years I think fully that, when measured against silver; and it appears to me that the tendency of things throughout the world is to increase the value of gold, to make it more scarce or of higher relative value compared with silver.

16176. Does it follow from that, that at present the standard of this country, which is exclusively gold, will sustain a lower rate of prices by about 6 per cent. than the ancient standard, which was gold and silver, would have done?—I attribute much more than 6 per cent. in its permanent effect on prices to the regulation which makes gold the exclusive standard of value.

16177. How much would you reckon 6 per cent. upon agricultural produce to be upon the rent of land? What proportion do you think the rent bears to the amount of produce of land?—I imagine that the rent is about one-third of the produce of the farm.

16178. Does it follow from that that an increase of 6 per cent. upon agricultural produce would give an increase of rent of 18 per cent?—Certainly not entirely.

Mr. Henry Burgess.

3 June 1836.

16179. What is the annual produce of a farm of which the rent is 100 *l.* a year?—Speaking vaguely, I suppose about 300 *l.*

16180. Would not an increase of 6 per cent. upon that 300 *l.* produce 318 *l.*, and is not that 18 per cent. upon the 100 *l.*?—Yes, it is.

16181. Does it follow therefore that under the old standard of value, if it were re-established, producing that advance of 6 per cent. upon agricultural prices, that the farmer could pay a rent of 18 per cent. more than he can pay under the present standard?—It would seem so, allowing for abatement on account of other circumstances.

16182. Would restoring that old standard of the country give an increase, taking these data as correct, of 18 per cent. upon the rent of the country?—It would either give an increased rent to that amount or it would prevent a fall to the same extent.

16183. Therefore upon lands which are now over-rented and which are subject to a fall, the restoration of the ancient standard of value would prevent a fall of rent to the extent of 18 per cent.?—It would; excepting the circumstances referred to in my former answer.

16184. Of course this effect would be reduced by the increased cost of wages to the farmer, and it would be lessened to the landlord by the increased cost of his own consumption?—Yes; the 6 per cent. would have to be spread over the expenses of tillage, the means of living for the occupier, and the rent.

16185. Taking an estate which is encumbered to its full amount by mortgages and settlements, and on which the wages of labour are now higher than at the present prices can be sustained, and the rent higher than can at the present prices be sustained, would not that benefit of 18 per cent. go almost entirely to the owner or the occupier of that estate?—Pretty nearly so, but the expenses of living of the farmer would have to be subtracted from it.

16186. Sir *Robert Price.*] Under ordinary circumstances an increase of 6 per cent. upon the value of the produce would not give the landlord a higher additional rental than 6 per cent.?—It appears to me that the wages are in consequence of the calamitous proceedings of the labourers at present raised to an unnatural level, and that level cannot be sustained permanently without ruining the farmer; and therefore a rise of 6 per cent. would have its almost sole operation upon the value of land to the landlord under existing circumstances.

16187. Mr. *Cayley.*] Under the circumstance of there being no debt, under the circumstance of wages being exactly adapted to the prices of produce, and under the circumstances of no taxation and no fixed engagements, then the operation of the rise of 6 per cent. upon produce would be to be divided among various parties?—It must then have the effect of distributing the benefit among all the parties engaged in the process of production.

16188. Sir *Robert Price.*] And your reason for believing that under present circumstances the landlord would have the benefit of the whole 18 per cent. arises from your belief that wages under present circumstances must lower considerably?—Yes.

16189. Mr. *Attwood.*] You spoke of certain calamitous circumstances which you think have enhanced unnaturally the price of wages; what do you allude to?—I mean the prevalence of fires and the threatening attitude assumed by the labourers, in the southern districts of England more particularly.

16190. You conceive that in consequence of the insubordination of the labourers and incendiary fires wages are now at an unnatural height?—I do.

16191. Does it follow that if the present rate of agricultural prices continue, ultimately wages must descend to a lower level?—Undoubtedly.

16192. Will that be an easy process, or will it be accompanied whenever it takes place with further insubordination amongst the labourers?—With desperate and alarming excesses on the part of the labouring population.

16193. Does it follow from that that any advance of agricultural prices, which should prevent the necessity of a reduction in the wages of agricultual labourers, would produce great national benefit and avert a great national danger?—It could not fail to have such tendency.

16194. Mr. *Miles.*] You conceive that the present price of wages is attributable to the insubordination of the labourers and the great fires that took place?—I attribute the rise in wages in agricultural districts that took place about three years ago wholly to that cause; but there has latterly been another cause in operation

operation, which has tended to sustain and perhaps to increase the rate of wages, and that is the very great extension of manufacturing and mining operations and the multitude of public works demanding labour.

16195. Then is not the present price a fair price arising from fair competition for labour?—The present price cannot, I am thoroughly convinced, continue to be paid by the farmers occupying land at existing rents.

16196. In case this increase of profit of eighteen per cent. took place, is it likely, if the farmer made eighteen per cent. more of his produce, that wages would remain at their present amount?—Certainly not, if the present demand for labour for other than agricultural purposes continued.

16197. Is it not invariably the case with respect to manufacturers and every other description of persons in the country, that with additional profits additional wages are demanded and are actually paid?—Always, except when there is at the same time a great influx of new labourers.

16198. Mr. *Attwood.*] Do you think that an addition of six per cent. to agricultural prices would be followed by a general enhancement of agricultural wages?—I think not, because looking at the condition of the farmers, agricultural wages appear to me at an unnatural elevation now.

16199. Do you recollect when the last withdrawal of 1 *l.* notes from circulation took place from the country bankers that any apprehension was manifested by the country bankers as to the result of that?—Not with reference to any fear amongst themselves, but as to the effect of that measure upon the country, very great apprehensions were entertained amongst the country bankers.

16200. Did they not fear that it would very materially injure their trade?—Undoubtedly it curtailed a very profitable source of their business.

16201. Consequently there was a feeling very hostile to the withdrawal of the notes?—I do not think there was any such feeling manifested by the country bankers; but perhaps I may further explain, that the country bankers are so extremely anxious to be placed in a condition of safety against runs which may have the effect of disturbing their deposits, that they were willing to forego the profit upon the small notes for the purpose of attaining that safety.

16202. Has not that feeling of security taken place since the withdrawal of the 1 *l.* notes?—I think there was a general impression amongst bankers, that that security would be afforded by the withdrawal.

16203. Mr. *Cayley.*] You think that security to 1 *l.* notes, which does not exist under a gold standard, would be afforded under a silver standard?—That is my impression.

16204. Is silver as marketable a commodity as gold; is it as much liable to exportation as gold is?—As a merchantable commodity, the one as much as the other; the facilities for exporting gold, however, are greater than for silver; the per centage cost of export is much less, and therefore changes take place much more rapidly under a gold circulation than under a silver circulation.

16205. Are the sudden demands for great quantities of silver as frequent as they are for great quantities of gold?—I imagine that the operations of merchants are more extensive in silver than in gold; but I before mentioned that sudden demands may arise for gold, and owing to the extreme facility of transporting large masses of gold the circulation of gold in this country is much more liable to be affected by mercantile causes than that of silver.

16206. If Mr. Rothschild has stated in his evidence before the Bank Committee in 1832, that one great protection to the circulating medium in France and its degree of equability was, that it was not liable to be called away so much as gold, and that the circulating medium, not being so liable to be called away, gave the circulating medium of France a much greater degree of equability than that of England or of any country having a gold standard, and in which gold was liable to frequent and sudden withdrawal, would you state that to be a sound opinion?—Decidedly.

16207. *Chairman.*] Were there not other causes besides the Bill of 1819 which made that great change in the prices?—I have alluded to the withdrawal of an immense mass of bills of exchange which were drawn in foreign countries upon the English Treasury for payments of the Government. The withdrawal of those alone would have operated extensively.

16208. And the sudden transition from war to peace would have had a considerable effect?—It would, sooner or later, but the bills upon the English Treasury were drawn for several years after the termination of the war, and therefore the effect of such withdrawal was not felt entirely for three or four years after.

Mr. *Henry Burgess.*

3 June 1836

16209. Mr. *Cayley.*] Did a return to peace ever produce a fall of prices before?—There never before, I imagine, was so great an amount of Government bills in circulation in the manufacturing districts of this country as at the close of that war.

16210. When you spoke of the greater prosperity which existed during the war, did you refer to the great quantity of Government bills in circulation during that period?—During the war there were extensive operations going on in distant parts of the world which caused a great amount of bills to be drawn on the English Treasury, almost the whole of those bills found their way into the manufacturing districts.

16211. When you state that prices were connected with the war, would you state that prices were connected with the Government bills circulating in consequence of the war?—I say, that the creation of those Government bills had some effect upon prices.

16212. But still you connect the prices with a circulation of paper of some kind or other?—Yes.

16213. Mr. *Attwood.*] Why did not the Government bills produce a rise in prices during the American war?—I am not prepared with a direct answer to that, but I imagine the operations of Government which led to the creation of an immense amount of bills upon the English Treasury in the last war constituted a distinct feature of that war; such bills were much more limited in the American war.

16214. If a great extent of the Government paper would produce a large advance of agricultural prices, would not a limited circulation of Government paper produce a smaller advance of agricultural prices?—I understood the questions to refer to prices in general, and not to agricultural prices in particular; I should limit my answer more particularly to imported raw materials of manufacture and to manufactured productions.

16215. Mr. *Attwood.*] As you have stated certain consequences which you consider to have arisen from the present monetary system, and pointed out benefits which you think would arise from certain changes that you have described, are you prepared now to suggest any particular alterations that you would propose?—I must beg leave to submit that this examination has come upon me unexpectedly; I did not know that I should be examined till five o'clock yesterday, and though I have formed opinions concerning what would be expedient to recommend with reference to any changes in the regulations of our monetary system, I should beg for a little time to consider of my answer to that question.

16216. Mr. *Miles.*] Have you any particular measure to recommend for the relief of the agricultural interest?—It appeared to me that one of the most mischievous effects of the Bill of 1819, was the annihilation of the motive of country bankers to lend money to the agricultural interest; and other measures should at the same time have been brought forward to provide for the free distribution of capital throughout the farming districts. I think there is very great deficiency of capital applied to farming purposes, and I imagine that some measures might be devised for remedying the evil.

16217. What are those measures?—On these grounds I would answer the question by proposing as the best measure, that under existing circumstances I could suggest that Government should be recommended forthwith to advance twenty millions in Exchequer Bills for the relief of farmers, at the rate of three, three-and-a-half, or four per cent. per annum, for interest. That the distribution of this sum should be entrusted to the country bankers, because they are best acquainted with the wants and personal trustworthiness of the farmers; but that they should be under the controul of a commissioner or commissioners appointed by the Government; and that the bankers should be allowed a commission of 10*s.* per cent. for their trouble, and to insure their attention, discrimination and fidelity in performing the duty.

Mr. *William Debonnaire Haggard*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *W. D. Haggard.*

16218. Mr. *Cayley.*] YOU are the chief clerk of the bullion office of the Bank of England?—I am.

16219. Have you paid much attention to the question of currency?—I have paid a great deal of attention to it.

16220. Has your occupation as principal clerk of the bullion office given you facilities for carrying on investigations upon that subject?—I think it has. I have made up my mind entirely from practical observation.

16221. How

16221. How long have you been connected with the Bank of England?—About thirty-one years.

16222. How long have you been connected with the bullion office?—About eighteen years.

16223. Should you say, taking the question of the security of the Bank of England into your consideration, that gold or silver was the most advisable basis for the circulation and the standard of value?—I should conceive silver to be the safest considerably.

16224. Will you state why you prefer silver to gold?—Because, if the gold currency were left to find its value in the market, the standard of value in the country would not be so frequently disturbed as it is. Gold is a commodity that varies in price according to the demand, the same as cotton or coffee. You ought not to call it a standard of value, because you never can have a fixed price for it. That will keep it always in the country.

16225. Do you conceive that it is a great disadvantage to the bank, when there is a drain of gold from it, which is exported to foreign countries?—I think a greater disadvantage to the country.

16226. Will you state why you think it a greater disadvantage to the country than to the bank?—Because, whenever there is a demand for gold, the issues are lessened; and if that continues for any length of time, the prices of every thing are so affected by the want of circulation, that it is a very serious thing to many people.

16227. Do you conceive that one of the main causes of price is the amount of the circulating medium?—I certainly do; but of course any very large production of an article would affect its price likewise.

16228. Then there are two things that operate upon price, the supply and demand of the article itself, and the supply and demand of money?—Money chiefly affects it.

16229. Would you state that the occasional demand for gold from the bank for export causes a considerable fluctuation in the issues of the Bank of England?—In 1825, which was a most awful time to every one, I was in the midst of it myself. I have no doubt that the foreign demand for gold was entirely the cause of that panic, because then they were obliged to withdraw their issues, and I do not think it was any home panic at all.

16230. You think it was connected with a foreign demand rather than with a home demand?—Yes.

16231. Why do you think this demand was occasioned upon the bank at that period?—I cannot recollect the quantity of bullion in the Bank Report; but if you look at the early part of that year, you will find a very large quantity of bullion, and at the latter part of the year a very small quantity. I know there was a great deal exported.

16232. Was there an increase of the issues of the Bank of England in the years 1823, 1824 and 1825?—I cannot answer that.

16233. You do not remember the cause of the great home demand for gold upon the Bank in 1825?—I should say it was from the want of accommodation among the people for small change, for at last people had not change for a 5*l.* note.

16234. What was the commencement of the drain of gold by the public?—I think the want of accommodation among the people. Not any home panic, because the 1*l.* notes did all that was required when they were made use of.

16235. Do you mean that the 1*l.* notes stopped the panic?—They stopped the panic; in fact it was not a panic, it was more the want of accommodation among the people for small change than any panic.

16236. Were prices of commodities higher in 1825 than subsequently?—That I cannot say.

16237. Do you conceive that the gold standard which at present prevails, in fact leads to frequent tamperings with the currency?—I think it is constantly tampering with itself, because you cannot keep the relative values between the two metals gold and silver; one or the other will be in demand more or less, and by making gold the standard, and fixing the price both for the purchase and sale of gold, you are in a cleft stick, you lose both ways, because they will never let you have gold if a higher price is to be got any where else, therefore when gold is low abroad they are sure to bring it here. Then, on the other hand, by fixing it at 3*l.* 17*s.* 10½*d.* whenever it is above that price abroad they take it away; at that price therefore both ways you must lose.

Mr. *W. D. Haggard.*

3 June 1836.

16238. When those fluctuations in the currency take place, which seem to arise from a self-acting principle in the gold standard itself, does it produce great fluctuations in prices?—Generally it does; and, in fact, distress.

16239. You conceive that the distress arises from the diminution of the circulating medium?—Yes.

16240. You said that you were yourself in the midst of that tremendous havoc which took place in 1825; was there a great agitation and a great anxiety on the part of respectable parties to get accommodation then which they could not get?—I saw a great number of country bankers who came with tears in their eyes, requesting to have either bank notes or gold; and, I believe, if they had had small notes it would have answered the purpose. The law says you shall only have 2*l.* in silver, and the bank issues no notes under 5*l.*

16241. Was the anxiety of those respectable gentlemen at all in consequence of their not having real property to answer the outstanding demands against them?—I believe they brought excellent securities, but the bank having calls upon them for gold, if they issued their notes they came in for gold immediately, and not having that article to give for those notes they must prevent their notes going out of necessity.

16242. Then those parties were men of ample property, more than sufficient to meet all the demands against them, but they had not that thing, which the law required that they should have, to answer their demands?—They had not that representative which the law compelled them to have, and therefore all those securities went for nothing.

16243. You have stated what you conceive to be the disastrous effects of the present gold standard. Will you state what you consider would be a better standard of value?—I should conceive that silver would be a good standard of value, with a proper seignorage, merely to allow for the fluctuation of price in the markets, that the bullion and the coin may not leave the country together, for I conceive the standard of value to mean this, that it shall be a given quantity of fine silver of a given weight, that every man in the country may settle his accounts at that standard; it has nothing to do with the foreigner any further than that he may know of that standard, and he acts upon that standard with his exchanges.

16244. You are no advocate for the depreciation of the currency?—A fit and proper seignorage only, which is sufficient to allow for a difference of price between bullion and coin, and to pay for the expense of the coinage.

16245. Is the present seignorage too great or too little in your opinion?—It is too great upon silver, and it is nothing upon gold.

16246. Would you throw gold out of the question altogether as a standard?—Gold may be used as coin; but instead of giving the people the privilege of claiming gold, which is no privilege where it does not exist, let it be on the other hand payable but not demandable.

16247. You would give the bank the privilege of paying either in gold or silver, but give the people the privilege of demanding only silver?—Yes, because you must have some standard of value with the rest of the world.

16248. Would you have an agio upon the gold?—I would allow gold to find its value in the market; it may be taken in at 20*s.*, but let it have a fair seignorage upon it.

16249. Is it your notion that the protection to the bank would be this, that if there was a great demand for gold the gold would rise in value and that would deter people from applying for gold?—It would do away with the demand in time, because you may get up the gold to such a price that it reaches the silver standard of the country; if you get it beyond that and beyond the expense of transmitting the silver to foreign countries, they will take the silver in preference to the gold.

16250. Then, in fact, you would have, as the standard of value, silver with a proper seignorage, a less seignorage than at present exists, and the privilege to the bank of paying in gold at the market price?—Yes, I would.

16251. How would you measure the market price?—That is always done by the exchange.

16252. Do you suppose that the standard you recommend would render the disturbances in our currency less frequent?—I have not the least doubt of it; in fact France tells you plainly, that they have not had their standard of value disturbed since the French Revolution; it is entirely from their having a steady silver

silver standard, and allowing gold to fetch its value in the market. I am sure it would act as magic if it was allowed here.

16253. You say that you think the alteration from a gold to a silver standard would act as magic; do you think that the security which the silver standard would give to the bank would dispose them to be more liberal in the circulation of their notes?—You would have a more steady circulation, and less variation of prices.

16254. Do you think the Bank of England would have more confidence in circulating their notes?—There can be no doubt of it, they would be in a safer position.

16255. Would that rather dispose them to issue more or less of their notes?—If more notes are issued than are really wanted for the purposes of legitimate trade and business, you get the prices of things up beyond the prices that the foreigners can buy at, and then you immediately find it out by the exchanges getting against you, for they will not buy your goods, and if you will buy of them, you must pay in cash; immediately that takes place, there is a lessening of the paper circulation, and it will not be so tremendous as it has been; but you must always have a proper control over it, and a silver standard will do it.

16256. The bank is exposed to great risk from a run in consequence of the present standard?—There is no doubt of that. There are 25 or 30 millions of gold in circulation among the people. That is a complete dead weight; you might just as well make a law to have so much gold buried, for it cannot be made use of as an international commodity, because when gold is withdrawn from the bank, the people get alarmed and begin to hoard.

16257. What data have you for the opinion that there is 25 or 30 millions of gold in circulation?—From the quantity that has been coined.

16258. Do you take into your calculation the period at which that gold was coined, and the quantity which has been exported since?—There is never any coin exported if the merchants can get bullion.

16259. Can you have any accurate test of the amount of gold in circulation?—No, it is not possible.

16260. Do you suppose that, under any emergency which might arise, there would be a greater facility for the bank to obtain silver than to obtain gold? You would not want any great deal of silver in circulation if you had a representative, it would not require any thing like the stock that you have at present.

16261. You think that, whereas 10 millions may be supposed to be the treasure of the bank, in ordinary cases of gold, they would not require 10 millions of silver?—Nothing like it.

16262. Do the bank deal in silver now?—Yes, they buy and sell.

16263. For what purpose?—I have no doubt that they keep the silver to counteract the exchange, in case of any large demand for gold.

16264. Have you ever known any great losses take place in any of those dealings?—There was one in the Bank Report, a very large melting of silver shillings, sixpences and half-crowns, an immense loss.

16265. What loss was that to the bank?—It was about 98,000*l.*, but I think there was about 35,000*l.* returned in shillings.

16266. Sir *R. Price.*] It is your opinion that the whole panic in 1825 arose from a want of accommodation?—I think it entirely arose from the international demand for gold, that it was wanted abroad, for whenever there are any discrepancies in trade, gold always goes to equalise it.

16267. You were not in the country at the time of the panic?—No, I was in the Bank of England. I was at the bank two nights signing 1*l.* notes; in fact, it was easily seen that the thing was coming on.

16268. Do you think that persons brought their notes to the country bankers merely on account of the want of accommodation?—Whenever there is a large demand for gold, and a profit upon it, by fixing the Mint price at 3*l.* 17*s.* 10½*d.*, they will run for the sake of that profit.

16269. Your belief is, that that was the reason why the people ran to the country banks for gold?—I have no doubt that that was the cause, and at last they had not the means of changing the 5*l.* notes, because the law did not allow them to pay more than 2*l.* in silver.

16270. The great reason that you give against gold being a proper standard

Mr. *W. D. Haggard.*

3 June 1836.

of value is, that it is a commodity liable to change in value?—It is a marketable commodity, and so is silver, but by leaving the gold to find its value it will equalize the thing. It ought to depend on the demand and supply; if there is a great demand for it, and a small supply, it is but reasonable that it should get up in price, and if there is a great quantity brought into this country, and not wanted, it is not reasonable that people should give a high price for it.

16271. What is the great distinction between silver and gold, both being marketable articles, and both being liable to fluctuation?—Silver is not liable to fluctuation, if you will let the gold as a representative meet the fluctuation, gold will get up in price, and it will take less gold to counteract the exchanges, and the price getting up will prevent the profit.

16272. Are you not aware that within the last six months there has been a want of silver, and some doubt whether silver may not even become a more difficult article to procure than gold?—It is not a legal tender, and therefore, no man will take silver in any quantity, because there is 10 per cent. loss upon it.

16273. As a marketable commodity?—That has nothing to do with coin.

16274. Are you aware that it has become scarcer, comparatively, than gold?—There is never any great quantity of gold found.

16275. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] Are there not a variety of sources from which you may expect silver, and comparatively very few from whence you may expect gold?—Very few; I do not suppose that the mines produce more than is used in Birmingham for plating goods.

16276. Mr. *Attwood.*] Do you recollect what the market price of silver is at present?—Fifty-nine pence; 4*s.* 11*d.* per ounce.

16277. Is the standard of this country 5*s.* 2*d.* per ounce?—No, 5*s.* 6*d.*

16278. What is the old silver coin?—In one part of Queen Elizabeth's reign it was 60*s.* and then 62*s.*

16279. You said that you could easily foresee the panic when it was coming on?—It was constantly talked of at the time by those about me; I had no doubt that it was coming from the great foreign demand for gold. There is one curious fact connected with that panic, that in 1824 and 1825 there were a greater quantity of sovereigns coined than at any other time. There were more sovereigns in existence a few months before the panic than ever before.

16280. The bank had a great store of bullion at different times in 1824?—In the early part of the year there was a very large stock.

16281. Are you able to state during what period that accumulation of bullion took place in the bank's possession in the beginning of 1824?—In 1824 they coined 4,751,219 sovereigns.

16282. And in the middle of 1824 the stock of bullion in the bank was very large?—It was.

16283. Can you state during what period the bank collected that stock of bullion?—I have no account of the sovereigns, because it does not come under my department, it is nothing but foreign coin and bullion.

16284. Mr. *Cayley.*] Do you remember a very low state of prices from 1819 to 1822?—I do not, at this moment.

16285. You do not remember whether during these years there was a considerable accession of bullion to the treasury of the bank?—No.

16286. You would recommend silver should be a legal tender, and that gold should be left to find its value in the market?—Yes, I think that the country would derive great benefit from that change.

16287. Is that the system of the French monetary system?—It is, and silver is the standard of value in every country but this.

16288. There is no country in which gold is the single standard of value?—I do not believe there is any.

16289. Are you aware that in America, where the standard is both gold and silver, they have recently altered the value of their gold coin?—I believe they have assimilated our sovereign, and made it of more value there to circulate among themselves.

16290. They have made our sovereign pass for more money than it does here?—Yes, they must do it if they mean to keep it.

16291. They have done that for the purpose of drawing sovereigns into circulation?—Yes, they have done that, because we coined sovereigns with no seignorage

309

Mr. *W. D. Haggard.*

3 June 1836.

seignorage, and therefore we save them the expense of coining, and I believe they do the same thing in Portugal.

16292. Mr. *Cayley.*] Is it your opinion that our currency is more liable to disturbance than the currency of other countries, in consequence of our having a gold standard?—I never recollect any quantity of French silver coin coming to this country; we never have it in any quantity, nor do I know that we have the standards of any other country come in any large quantities here, what I call their standard of value, which is the thing they work upon.

16293. Then the fact is, that in your opinion gold as a circulating medium is more liable to be taken away from the country than silver is?—Undoubtedly; the small bulk compared with the value and the little expense of transmission, makes it very desirable as a marketable commodity.

16294. When there is a demand for the balance of trade, or for correcting the exchanges, or for war purposes, that generally is done in gold rather than in silver?—Certainly.

16295. And by gold forming the basis of the circulation, under those circumstances the currency is very much deranged?—Undoubtedly, because instead of having it among ourselves it is sent away.

16296. And that derangement of the circulating medium produces a great fall in prices, and that very much deranges the operations of trade and commerce?—The fact is, that prices must meet the quantity of money in circulation.

16297. If silver was the basis of the circulation, do you conceive that in consequence of it our commercial transactions would be upon a more equable and stable foundation?—It would not cause the circulating medium to be so often disturbed according to circumstances.

16298. Mr. *Attwood.*] When the precious metals flow into this country from the continent, in what form do they come?—Generally in bars; from Paris they bring large quantities when we do not want it, but when we do, we do not get it; I consider that all the gold and silver that we get from the different countries, with the exception of South America, is generally either for profit, because we give too high a price for it, or an exchange for goods that we have over-traded in.

16299. When the bank stock of bullion is lower than is desirable, Mr. Rothschild does not bring it in?—No, if he can get more for it any where else, but you are almost overwhelmed with it at times; I find that the prices are almost always 3*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.* buying, and 3*l.* 17*s.* 10½*d.* selling alternately.

16300. Sir *R. Price.*] Your notion is not to have any depreciation of standard?—No, merely a fair seignorage. If you do not have a seignorage, it will go with the bullion, which is a great inconvenience.

16301. Do you contemplate any large addition to the circulating medium?—That depends upon whether you have a representative in gold.

16302. Do you think it would be desirable to have 1*l.* notes?—I do not see why they should not exist; I have no doubt they would drive gold out of circulation directly.

16303. Mr. *Cayley.*] If you had a silver basis, would you want the gold?—It is a very useful thing to have as a marketable commodity, and the bank ought to have the power of paying in that coin which is least in demand.

16304. Sir *R. Price.*] Is not it the effect of an universal issue of paper to drive coin out of circulation?—Yes, it is more convenient.

16305. Mr. *Miles.*] From your experience, which metal has fluctuated most in value, gold or silver?—Gold, with us, cannot fluctuate more than from 3*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.* to 3*l.* 17*s.* 10½*d.*, because it is fixed at those prices; but in other countries I should say that gold fluctuates and not silver.

16306. Does not the relative value of any precious metal depend upon the supply; first of all the supply from the mines, and then upon the general demand?—Yes, just the same as any other commodity.

16307. And silver is the basis of the currency of other countries?—Yes, all other countries.

16308. So that if there was a deficient supply from the silver mines, of course as there is a great demand for silver, silver must be greatly enhanced in price?—It would if it alone were wanted, and there was no supply, but gold would act as a representative of silver.

16309. Which metal, silver or gold, is easiest of alloy, and will pass current

Mr. *W. D. Haggard.*

3 June 1836.

so alloyed?—If you take the present coins, I should say shillings, because there is ten per cent. profit upon the silver, and there is none upon the gold.

16310. Mr. *Evans.*] You mentioned that you would allow the bank to pay its demands either in gold or in silver; would not that be a great advantage to the bank and an injury to the country?— No, a sovereign would always represent twenty shillings.

16311. If the Bank had the option, they would pay it in the coin of the least value?—Any country having a metallic currency must have some inconvenience in it, but the object is to have the least evil.

16312. Would it be a great advantage to the bank to have the option?— It would only make them safe, and that safety I consider is very desirable for the public.

16313. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] It was stated in evidence before the Bank Committee in 1819, that from the first discovery of the mines in South America, the relative value between gold and silver has experienced a regular progressive alteration constantly in favour of gold; that is, that gold has progressively increased in value; should not you be disposed to infer from that, that silver is a preferable measure of value for the present state of society throughout the world?—No doubt of it; and that very circumstance of its variation is a proof that it is a bad standard.

16314. Mr. *Attwood.*] Are you aware how long silver at 5*s.* 2*d.* was the invariable standard?—Yes; there is one very curious circumstance in history that from William the Conqueror to 1334, there was no disturbance whatever in the standard of value, but the moment that gold came in with silver, immediately there takes place great fluctuation in the weight of the standard price of the country.

16315. Was the silver coin depreciated between those two periods?—Very much indeed; in 1334 the weight of the penny was 22 grains and a 9th; In that same year he changed it to 20 grains and a quarter. From 1346 to 1353 he changed it to 20 grains. In 1354 he altered it again to 18 grains. In Richard the Second's reign it was 18 grains. In the early part of Henry the Fourth's reign, it was 18 grains; and in 1413 he changed it to 15 grains. Henry the Fifth continued it 15; and Henry the Sixth, the early part, was 15 grains, and in 1460 he reduced it to 12 grains; and then Edward the Fourth, he changed it again to 15 grains; and again, in 1465, to 12 grains; so that there has been no end to the tampering with the currency, from the difficulty of keeping the relative value of the two metals, but one would counteract the other if you let gold find its value. It was 12 grains from Edward the Fourth to Henry the Seventh, in 1509; then Henry the Eighth played all sorts of tricks; there were great changes made. Henry changed the pound Tower for the pound Troy. Then, in Queen Elizabeth's reign, 60*s.* were coined from the pound Troy, till 1602, and then she altered it to 62*s.*; and then gold was to silver as 11 to 1; and after James the First it was 13 to 1.

16316. Mr. *Attwood.*] Did silver continue at 62*s.* from Queen Elizabeth's reign down to the Act of 1816?—It was 62*s.* down to 1816; there is no variation till 1816, when it jumped to 66*s.*

16317. Was gold coin at the first of those periods in the proportion of 11 to 1, when silver was 5*s.* 2*d.* to the ounce?—It was 11 to 1.

16318. Since 1601 there has been no alteration in silver down to 1816?—No.

16319. During all that time great alterations took place in the gold coin?—Yes; particularly in William the Third's time, but none in the silver.

16320. Gold was coined at 11 to 1 in 1601, and what is it now?—It is about 15.

16321. The gold has advanced during this whole period in the proportion of 11 to 15?—It appears so.

16322. Is that about 30 per cent?—Very nearly.

16323. The proportion of gold and silver in the market keeps gold at a higher price than silver, with reference to our mint regulations?—Yes, because one is without a seignorage, and the other with. Gold is more valuable; no foreigner will take our shillings.

16324. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] This question was put to Mr. Harman when he was examined before the Bank Committee in 1819, "Supposing the Bank of Paris to have it in their power, by an operation of theirs, to prevent the exportation

of gold from France; and supposing that the Bank of Paris knowing that the Bank of England was under the necessity of purchasing gold, at any rate, to a considerable extent, within a given period, were to prevent such exportation, would not such a circumstance add very materially to the difficulties which the Bank of England would have in making the purchases of gold which might be necessary?" To which Mr. Harman answers, "Under the circumstances supposed, I think the Bank of England would be tributary to the Bank of France." Was not that expression of Mr. Harman's actually realized in 1825, when the Bank of Paris deliberated as to whether they should permit the gold lying dormant in the Bank of Paris to come here or not?—No doubt about it, and so all other nations.

Mr. *W. D. Haggard.*

3 June 1836.

16325. Could any such state of thinks have arisen if our standard had been a standard of silver and not of gold?—I think not, because they could not get the means of doing it.

Mercurii, 8° die Junii, 1836.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Shaw Lefevre.	Mr. Evans.
Mr. Attwood.	Mr. Sanford.
Lord Viscount Howick.	Mr. Wodehouse.
Mr. Cayley.	Mr. Bingham Baring.
Mr. Heathcote.	Mr. Clive.
Mr. Loch.	Mr. Miles.
Mr. Dunlop.	Sir Robert Peel.
Mr. Young.	

MR. SHAW LEFEVRE, IN THE CHAIR.

James Loch, Esquire, a Member of the Committee, called in; and Examined.

James Loch, Esq.

8 June 1836.

16326. HAVE you received any communication from Scotland with reference to the system of sub-soil ploughing, which you think it advantageous to communicate to the Committee?—Yes; I have received a letter from Mr. Kenedy, who formerly sat for the Ayr burghs, which I will lay before the Committee, detailing his own experiments on that point; it appears to me that it exemplifies very thoroughly the advantages of the sub-soil plough of Mr. Smith, of Deanston.

[*The same was delivered in, and read.*]

MEMORANDUM by *T. F. Kennedy*, Esq. of *Dunure*, respecting his experience of the System of Draining and Sub-soil Ploughing, recommended by Mr. *Smith*, of *Deanston*, in the County of *Stirling*.

May 1836.

I HAVE practised Mr. Smith's system of draining and sub-soil ploughing upon my farm, in the county of Ayr, during the last three years, and the result has fully justified every anticipation of benefit. It is applicable to all soils not rocky which have not an absolutely porous sub-soil, the great object being, that the sub-soil should be rendered artificially porous, and that all rain-water should sink on the spot on which it falls, and that no running of water should take place on the surface.

There was at the outset considerable difficulty in having the work executed; it was arduous, and those engaged in the superintendence and labour were adverse, because they did not see the principles of the system or the advantages which were likely to arise. A little encouragement and a distinct intimation that there must be perseverance, overcame every difficulty. This observation applies to the sub-soil ploughing, while some difficulty attached to perfect execution of the drains, in having them made of the full depth of 30 inches, and filled neither too much nor too little, and with all due care in all particulars which must be attended to to secure permanence in the effects. I have invariably made the drains twelve feet apart, in order to secure the effect being complete; and being much impressed with the folly of spending a considerable sum per acre in the operation, and still failing to obtain what I may term perfection in the system. I have also used broken stones as the material when they could be obtained within such a distance as to prevent the expense of cartage being excessive; in other cases, I have used tiles, with a layer of three or four inches of stones or gravel over them. When stones alone were used, the drains have been uniformly thirty inches deep, leaving 16 inches for the operation of the plough and sub-soil plough; where tiles have been used, the depth has been about 24 inches, the same depth for the ploughs being

James Loch, Esq.

8 June 1836.

being left as in the other cases. A crop of oats has generally been taken after the drains have been executed, and the land has been comparatively dry, but even the visible effect has been very imperfect until the sub-soil plough has been applied. By means of this plough the whole obdurate undercrust of the soil has been broken up, and all water has instantly escaped, and after six or eight months of the alternations of heat and cold, wet and dry, a most remarkable change has appeared in the condition of the soil; what was before obdurate and retentive has become comparatively mellow and friable, and the longer the time since the operation has been performed the greater has been the perceptible progressive effect. The operation of the sub-soil plough has produced cracks and crevices and interstices to the depth of 16 inches, through these the rain passes off with rapidity, and these crevices are immediately filled by the air of the atmosphere, and during dry and hot weather these cracks and crevices are multiplied to an indefinite extent, and in clay soils to an extent quite remarkable. Instead of resuming its original tenacity, there seems to be a decided change effected in the character of the component parts of the land to the depth the plough has reached. It is for the skilful farmer to apply manure judiciously according to the state of each field. Drilled green crop has followed a crop of oats, and the land which before was unfit to grow turnips has become fitted for that crop, although, perhaps, a little rough and cloddy during the first year. Next has come a crop of wheat, and in it has been seen the great and remarkable effects of the system in the condition of the soil and the quantity of produce. Land which was before, in truth, unfit to carry wheat from extreme wetness has become altogether the reverse, being sown with wheat without ridges and furrows, being perfectly porous; all rain disappearing as it falls, and being carried off by filtration to the many drains, and each drain having little more than a thread of water to carry off. Possibly the land of which I speak might have previously yielded a precarious produce of 20, or at the utmost 24 bushels of wheat per imperial acre, while in its improved state, the actual produce of the crop of 1835 has been 40 bushels thrashed out, a few bushels of which were not very good in quality, owing to what is now to be mentioned. The fault of the crop was, that it was too strong, and there being much rain while it ripened it was laid down. Had this not occurred, the quality of the whole would have been good, and there is no doubt that six or eight bushels more per acre would have been obtained. The facts, therefore, are most satisfactory, because the result in the first wheat crop may truly be said to be 20 bushels of wheat of extra produce, in return for an expense of 10*l.* 10*s.* per acre, which was the cost of the drainage and the extra expense of sub-soil ploughing. It ought to be stated, that with the turnips the land was well manured and subsequently limed abundantly. After the wheat was carried, and during the winter, the field was ploughed about nine inches deep with the ordinary plough, and remained rough until the month of March, the whole rains of winter, which were excessive, sinking as they fell. Towards the end of March, the field was harrowed, drilled and sown with beans, without any manure. The crop is promising, and there can be no doubt that the powers of the soil which have now been brought into action, will render it abundant. The soil is so powerful, that it is intended to take a crop of wheat after the beans without any manure, but taking care to make the land perfectly clean, and there is little doubt that the wheat crop of 1837 so treated will be more productive than that of 1835, because it will be less superabundant in straw and incur less probable injury from being laid down.

I have selected one field, respecting which to state this progress; I might say the same of all the others which have been similarly treated so far as they have advanced in their progress. I have as yet no experience of grass, as the tillage has hitherto been carried on, and I am persuaded that beyond one year it would be injudicious immediately to introduce grass into the rotation upon land which was naturally so retentive, because it might have a tendency to revert to that condition. I am equally, however, of opinion, that a rotation of six or eight years would totally alter the permanent character of the soil, and after such a period of continued cultivation I have no doubt that very fine pasture might be established upon a soil which was before incapable of bearing any but the most worthless.

My experience on a moderate scale leads me to say, that the system is the greatest discovery which has been made in agriculture (because it is applicable to soils hitherto almost intractable and most expensive to cultivate), provided it be applied only where the altitude justifies the undertaking, by securing a climate suitable to valuable crops. It, in truth, converts almost the worst into the best land, that is, the most powerful in respect of production, because the quality of land to which it is applicable, the heavy clays and retentive sub-soils, will yield heavier crops after such treatment than the lighter loams and many of those varieties of soil which hitherto have been so pleasant to the agriculturist to cultivate.

The reformation which the system effects on lands which previously were looked on as hopeless is quite surprising, and no one believes it until it is seen; but again I say, that the whole success depends on the perfect and complete manner in which the operations are executed, as any thing merely being an approximation to the system will end in disappointment. The expense of what is perfect must not be grudged, and as surely as it is liberally given will it be abundantly repaid. I would also say, that the effects of the draining and sub-soil ploughing are dependent on each other; the one is comparatively worthless without the other; the ploughing would be thrown away without the previous draining, and the draining is a poor improvement compared to the combined effect with the sub-soil ploughing.

I may state, that my bailiff and the ploughmen who worked the sub-soil plough, certainly in the outset thought my orders almost foolish (but who nevertheless carried them into effect faithfully,) now see the effects of the system, and are fully sensible of the extraordinary effects resulting from it.

The

James Loch, Esq.

8 June 1836.

The various views of the advantages might be multiplied to any extent, but a concise statement of them seems to be, that the most obdurate and intractable soils assume a friabl and mellow character, and at the same time are rendered permanently most productive. A system which is applicable to 10 acres is equally so, in its principle, to 10,000 or 100,000 acres, and consequently the system becomes a most important national consideration. My decided impression is, that capital judiciously applied in the execution of this system may yield a return varying from 10 to 40 or 50 per cent., according to the various circumstances attending the infinite variety of cases in which the system may be carried into effect. Every thing depends on the mode and perfection of execution, if any one thinks of limiting the expense of complete execution, he may rest assured, that the recompense will be still more restricted, and that it is more judicious to improve one acre well than to deceive himself by a superficial operation on a more extended surface.

A remarkable effect is, that the harvest is considerably earlier on land so treated than on the same land in its previous state, and it is scarcely necessary to remark, that there will be a constant return for the same seed and labour and manure far greater than when they are applied to land in a naturally wet condition.

I do not think that any thing more useful could be done than that agricultural associations should offer premiums, such as to induce persons to make an experiment of this system; if such premiums were continued for a few years, they might speedily be discontinued, as the ample repayment which would arise from the system itself would be the best security for a continuance of the system throughout the kingdom.

T. F. Kennedy.

Veneris, 10° *die Junii*, 1836.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Shaw Lefevre.	Mr. R. Clive.
Mr. Cayley.	Sir Robert Price.
Mr. Sanford.	Mr. Attwood.
Mr. Bingham Baring.	Mr. Heathcote.
The O'Conor Don.	Mr. Dunlop.
Mr. Evans.	

MR. SHAW LEFEVRE, IN THE CHAIR.

George Frederick Muntz, Esquire, called in; and Examined.

George F. Muntz, Esq.

10 June 1836.

16327. Mr. *Cayley*.] WHERE do you reside?—In the neighbourhood of Birmingham.

16328. What is your occupation?—I am a general merchant, and I am also proprietor of a large establishment for rolling metals for the different manufactories in the town.

16329. Have you any other engagements or business in Wales?—At present I am engaged in constructing a large establishment for rolling metal for a new sheathing for ships that I have invented.

16330. How long have you been in business as a manufacturer and a general merchant?—I have been in business as a manufacturer 27 years, and as a merchant for 11.

16331. Then you probably commenced business somewhere about 1809 or 1810?—The end of 1808 or the beginning of 1809.

16332. When you first began business, prices were much higher than they are now?—Prices are high relatively and comparatively, not abstractedly.

16333. But, nominally, they were much higher?—They were, nominally.

16334. Did you find that those nominal prices, at that period, of agricultural and other produce, were very disadvantageous to your business as a manufacturer?—They operated variously at various periods; those prices, in the first instance, were prejudicial, but the injury was removed very rapidly by the system then pursued; in fact, those high prices of the necessaries of life came before the high wages, and there was almost always a collision between master and man in consequence of it.

16335. Did that last for any length of time?—No, never for any length of time.

16336. Do you mean the Committee to infer from that, that the labouring class were in an uncomfortable position during those high prices?—No, at the time that I began business the labouring class were, generally, in a comfortable

George F. Muntz. Esq.

30 June 1836.

position; but long before my time, in the early part of the advanced prices, they were very much prejudiced before they could get an advance in their wages.

16337. You stated, that, when first you entered business, the rise in the price was prejudicial to the manufacturers; was that during the progress of the rise, or was it the rise itself that was prejudicial?—During the progress.

16338. Was there not a progressive rise during that period?—The rise progressively took place before I commenced business myself.

16339. To what do you attribute those nominally higher prices when you first commenced business?—To the departure from the standard of value; there was no standard in existence at that time; we deviated from the old standard, and inasmuch as we deviated from the standard, prices appeared to rise.

16340. Will you state what change took place in the standard of value, and when; when did the Bank commence issuing paper, without any convertibility in gold?—In 1797, before I was in business.

16341. Have you paid much attention to the operation of money upon prices?—Yes, I have, a great deal of attention the last 20 years.

16342. Will you describe the effects of the Restriction Act of 1797 upon prices?—The effect of the Restriction Act upon prices, was to leave every price at liberty to advance as compared with paper; and though most people thought that gold advanced finally, it was paper money that depreciated; gold remained at the same price in this country for some time, and in other parts of the world; but all other articles, as compared with gold and paper, appeared to augment very seriously in price.

16343. You stated, that the prices in 1809 and 1810 were nominal prices and not real prices; can you demonstrate that to the Committee?—Yes, it is easy to demonstrate it; if they had been real prices, they would have been prices compared with the pound sterling in gold; but they were not prices compared with the pound sterling in gold, inasmuch as the pound did not contain the quantity of gold that it did before the restriction Act; the quantity of property of many staple articles that could be purchased, when I first entered business, by the pound sterling, was about one-half what could have been purchased prior to the Bank Restriction Act.

16344. Then, do you infer that the depreciation was one-half?—I have no doubt of it.

16345. Were you then a foreign exporter?—Not then; but I knew the relations of trade just as well as if I had been.

16346. Will you explain the whole course of a transaction, beginning with the home manufacture here, and its transit from one hand to another, till it reached the continent, and in what measure it was valued on the continent?—It is valued on the continent by their money in bullion, as compared with the contents of our money in bullion; you must take both monies into consideration, because if you invoice goods from this country in the pound sterling, the foreigner remits you for them by a bill, which he buys at the rate of exchange; at that time the rate of exchange was pretty nearly in conformity with the depreciation of 50 per cent. upon our circulation.

16347. Supposing you had 200*l.* worth of copper manufacture to export in 1810, at the nominal price of 200*l.*, how much would that have fetched in real value on the continent?—The continent was not open till 1814, and the only way to estimate that is to see what the rate of exchange was, I think the rate of exchange at that time in France, was nearly one half what it is now.

16348. You are speaking now of France?—It was much the same in the different countries, because the variation took place in consequence of our depreciation in this country and not in theirs.

16349. Was there a great fall in the exchanges with the continent during the time of the depreciation of our currency?—Yes.

16350. And is that a true test in your mind of the depreciation of the currency?—I think the best test is to see the quantity of several staple articles that the pound sterling would purchase during the war, because there are many circumstances that operate upon the exchanges besides a depreciation of the currency. There may be an operation by the balance of trade, but the best criterion is to see what a pound sterling would purchase of staple articles, such as iron, copper and wheat.

16351. Should not you take the price of gold as the standard by which to measure the rise and fall of prices?—No, because the price of gold as compared with

395

George F. Muntz, Esq.

10 June 1836.

with the produce of this country, is operated upon by other circumstances. It was purchased by the Government secretly for the purpose of carrying on the war; and there was a law against melting gold, so that gold did not appear to get up like other commodities.

16352. Would you take the rise in gold along with other commodities, for the purpose of testing the depreciation?—I think for the reasons I have mentioned, it is very difficult to analyze it by gold.

16353. In fact, did gold rise at all during the early period after the bank restriction?—No, I do not think that gold ever rises, as I have stated before, the circulation depreciated but gold can be but gold.

16354. Was it not the fact that gold did rise after the year 1810 to 5*l.* 10*s.* from 3*l.* 17*s.* 10½*d.*?—It rose, compared with paper money, but it did not rise so soon or in the same ratio as other property.

16355. Was there not some reason in operation during the earlier periods of the war, why gold should not rise nominally with other articles of produce, namely, that a great quantity was thrown out of employment?—Of course when a bank note was made a legal tender, gold was not necessary for circulation.

16356. Did not the same circumstance take place with reference to some other countries, Russia, Austria and Prussia; did not they betake themselves to a paper circulation?—They used paper, but I do not think they placed their paper in the same position as ours, their paper was redeemable I think.

16357. Would not the fact of pushing a considerable quantity of gold in the market tend to lower the natural price of gold?—Of course it would if considerable.

16358. Would not that tend to prevent its rise along with other articles of commerce?—Yes, so it did, and that was one reason why gold in the first instance did not appear to rise.

16359. Was in fact gold quoted among the prices current for five or six or seven years, at the early period of the war?—Not at all; it was wanted in so small a proportion for commerce, that it was not an object.

16360. Would you take it then, that the best test of a depreciation of the currency was a general rise in all commodities?—Yes, I think it is.

16361. Might not some of the circumstances of the war affect prices and tend to raise them, independently of the depreciation of the currency?—No, I do not think that war has a natural tendency of raising prices, I think the contrary; I think war in itself tends to lower prices, except a few articles which may be used by the government extensively, and I think that is one of the fallacies that has been entertained, that war makes high prices.

16362. Why do you think it has a tendency to lower prices?—I never could see any reason why a war should raise prices, except some few articles that may be wanted largely by the Government.

16363. Was there not an increased expenditure during the war?—Yes, there was, but that did not operate altogether upon the productions of the country; the great amount of money spent was more for foreign loans and foreign expeditions, than for money spent in this country.

16364. Then do you think that although the expenditure in the war would have the effect of raising some prices, it would not have the effect of raising prices generally?—I do not think it would. It is very easy to shew, that prices were higher from 1801 to 1804, than they were from 1808 to 1814. Now if war would raise prices, why did not it continue to raise them then; but prices generally were higher in 1803–4, than they were during any period of the war.

16365. Were prices generally higher then?—Yes.

16366. Was the price of agricultural produce higher?—Yes, it was higher in 1802–3 than ever it was. Agricultural produce may be operated upon by other circumstances and by a short supply, but taking the average of all prices, you will find they were higher in 1802–3 than in any part of the war. But according to the doctrine, that war makes high prices, they ought to have increased with the increased expenditure. I have a statement of the prices here, from which it appears that the prices generally in 1803–4, were higher than at any other period.

16367. Will you state the articles quoted there?—Wheat was higher in 1801 than at any time.

16368. Did not that arise from scarcity?—Yes, the prices in the country generally, were higher in 1803–4 than ever they were.

George F. Muntz, Esq.

10 June 1836.

16369. You give that as a reason to show that the war did not operate to raise prices?—Yes, and I cannot see why war should raise the prices; people are not in a condition to consume so much in a time of war, when they pay increased taxes.

16370. Would you say that the general effect of war is to increase taxation?—No question of it.

16371. Do you consider that the pressure of taxation on individuals, would prevent them from consuming so much as they would in a time of peace?—Yes, provided they are in large commercial connexion with other countries that they must compete with. If the country was placed in an isolated situation without a fixed standard, then it would be another question; then the taxation might increase prices as it increases; but if you have to compete with other countries in manufactures, it will not have the same effect.

16372. The high range of prices ended with the war in 1815; will you state your reasons why you think that the fall was occasioned by any other circumstances rather than the cessation of war?—The fall was occasioned principally by that law which obliged the Bank of England to pay in gold in six months after the close of the war; but it was accelerated by the quantity of speculations that were made in the produce of this country as soon as the Continent was open, which were never paid for.

16373. Why were they not paid for?—First, because the fall in the price of gold, on account of the Government demand ceasing, and the alteration in the balance of trade, raised the foreign exchanges; and, secondly, the contraction of the circulation and discounts of the Bank reducing prices here; both which obliged the exporter to sell at sterling prices instead of nominal ones.

16374. That law did not come into operation immediately succeeding the war?—It came into operation in 1815, before the war was quite closed, by the knowledge of the Bank of England, that they must prepare for paying in gold within a certain time.

16375. Did they, in anticipation of that measure, decrease their issues?—They did.

16376. Was that decrease of the issues of the Bank of England followed by any great adversity among the productive classes?—It was followed by great adversity among the agricultural classes, in consequence of the price of corn coming into conflict with the gold money.

16377. Did the adversity consequent upon the alteration in the amount of the circulating medium, extend to the manufacturing classes as well as to the agricultural?—In the first instance the agriculturist felt it, because the corn being able to come in at sterling prices, it reduced the price so much, that they could not compete with it; and that was the foundation of the Corn Bill. If you had to import corn to this country from the continent, and if in one case you pay in gold at 3*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.*, and if in another case you pay in gold at half the value, it speaks clearly that foreign corn will be reduced in this market 50 per cent. by the rise in the exchanges from the alteration in the nominal high price of gold to the standard price.

16378. Supposing the ounce of silver to be depreciated here 100 per cent., it is then made to pass here for 10*s.*; but that ounce of silver, if taken abroad, will not sell for more than 5*s.*?—It will still be an ounce of silver, and taken only as such.

16379. If we import corn free under those circumstances, what apparently sells for 5*s.* abroad, when it arrives here, well sell for 10*s.* of our depreciated money?—No question of it.

16380. Under these circumstances our manufacturers would eat their corn at the continental price; whilst our farmers would have the nominal price they wanted?—Yes, without having corn protected; whatever rate you choose to make the ounce of silver, nearly so you may have the bushel of wheat.

16381. Was the distress very extensive in 1815 and 1816, in consequence of this alteration?—It began to be felt in 1815, and it was very serious indeed in 1816.

16382. Were there any disturbances in the country at that time?—A great many. Manufacturers did not get half enough employment, and there was a scarcity of agricultural produce at the same time, which elevated the price above the level, and made it still worse.

16383. Can you specify any disturbances which took place at the time?—They were so general all over the country, that I do not know how to specify them.

16384. Were

16384. Were there any in the neighbourhood of Birmingham?—Yes, I remember the iron people and the colliers were very much distressed, and the colliers drew coals up to London in waggons instead of horses.

16385. When did that state of things come to an end?—They began to be a little better in 1817, and improved gradually in 1818, and then every thing became what was called prosperous.

16386. What caused that return to prosperity?—Suspending the payment in gold by the bank, and keeping more money in circulation.

16387. Did that affect the manufacturing and agricultural prices equally?—I forget whether it was equal, but it was so near that it was of very little importance to either party. The manufacturers were in what is called a state of prosperity; they had plenty to do at fair profits, and of course they could afford to pay for the necessaries of life.

16388. Was there any distress or disturbance among the manufacturing population?—Not the least.

16389. Notwithstanding the rise of prices?—A rise of prices is never prejudicial so long as you can keep them general; the only fear was that they could not last.

16390. Was not there a scarce harvest in 1817, as well as in 1816, and might not that tend to raise prices?—No, a scarce harvest will starve the people, but it will not raise the wages of the consumers.

16391. It will raise the price of a particular commodity?—Yes, and then the artisans cannot get it.

16392. Do you assume that it was the action upon money which raised the prices in 1817 and in 1818?—No doubt of it.

16393. Because there was a general rise of prices, not merely a rise in one alone, or in articles that were scarce?—That is the ground of believing it to be so.

16394. You say that the state of things which was prosperous in 1818, could not last; will you state why not?—Because the advance of prices which gave the people remunerating profits, which were called then as they are called now, prosperity, was an advance of prices on a gold standard, a sterling advance, and therefore our manufacturers could not sell in competition with the manufacturers on the continent, or the gold remain in this country.

16395. But the gold standard had not been restored in 1818?—No, but it was to be restored in 1819.

16396. Was there any contraction of the Bank issues in 1818 in consequence of the anticipation of the measure of 1819?—Yes, in the autumn.

16397. Had that any effect to reduce prices?—It acted within a few weeks, perhaps within a few days. The Bank reduced their discounts to the London bankers, they reduced their accommodation to their customers the country bankers, and then those customers did so to their connections.

16398. Was there a fall then in all produce, manufacturing as well as agricultural, when Mr. Peel's Bill in 1819 came into operation?—Yes, Mr. Peel's Bill did not cause it, that is one of the delusions upon the subject; it was the circumstances that caused the fall, and the same circumstances would have caused it without that bill.

16399. Will you explain what you mean?—I mean that if Mr. Peel's Bill had never come into action and the bank had been liable to return to cash payment within a certain short time, it would have been the same; that is, if the law had remained in existence as it was at the end of the war.

16400. Was not Mr. Peel's Bill the restoration of the cash payments?—Not exactly so; it altered the provisions of it; it allowed it to be done in a more gradual way, instead of paying in coin they were to pay their notes of a certain date in bars of gold, and then in 1823 they were to be all paid in coin on demand.

16401. But virtually Mr. Peel's Bill was a confirmation of the resumption of cash payments?—Yes; that is to say, Mr. Peel's Bill was the completion of the principle that was intended to be exercised at the end of the war. Mr. Peel's Bill is said by many to be the cause of low prices, and then it is said that prices were low before Mr. Peel's Bill, which is very true.

16402. Are the Committee to understand you to say, that the fall of prices at the close of the war was in anticipation of the resumption of cash payments?—Al

George F. Muntz, Esq.

10 June 1836.

the falls in prices that took place after the end of the war were in anticipation of cash payments; within a certain time and according as it was nearer or more remote the prices were operated upon.

16403. Did not in fact the Bill of 1819 when it brought back the state of cash payments previous to the war, bring back the Bank of England paper to a state of convertibility into the precious metals?—Yes, it made it rather worse, because it took a gold standard instead of a silver standard, and made the gold standard worse than the silver standard was.

16404. Do you remember whether there was great distress in 1820, 1821 and 1822?—Yes, there was a gradually increasing distress from 1818 to the beginning of 1823; the prices of all sorts reduced every day.

16405. Were there any disturbances in the manufacturing districts in 1820, 1821 and 1822?—I do not know whether there were actual disturbances; there was a great deal of distress and enormous poor rates to pay, and people in a dissatisfied state.

16406. Were the poor rates increased in consequence of the low prices and the disability of the parties to employ labour?—Yes, very seriously indeed.

16407. How long did that state of things last?—It lasted till the law was altered, ending the circulation of 1*l.* notes in 1823 to extending the circulation of such local notes from 1823 to 1833; this tended very much to increase prices, because it released the country bankers from the straightened position which they were in; and there were exchequer bills advanced upon mortgages and stock and cash, and in fact every thing done that could be done to raise prices.

16408. Do you remember that when Lord Londonderry introduced his 1*l.* note measure, he did it with the view of promoting circulation and increasing prices?—He did; he said that the landed interest would be ruined if it was not done.

16409. His view of relieving the landed interest was to increase the quantity of paper issue?—Yes.

16410. Was it followed by prosperity in 1823, 1824 and 1825?—Yes; it was followed by an increase of all prices, and an increase of employment, and an increase in the consumption of produce of the land of course succeeded that.

16411. Why did not that state of things last?—Because the gold went out of the country, as it might be expected to do, the gold not being allowed to rise in price with other articles. If the gold had been allowed to rise in price with other articles, it would not have gone. A speculative increase of prices advances our prices, and contracts our exports, and the very same operation increases our imports; at the same time all property advances except gold and silver; then the balance of trade by degrees turns against us, and the articles most valuable to export being the gold and silver, they as a matter of course speedily disappear.

16412. What is the effect of the withdrawal of gold upon the Bank circulation?—Then the Bank of England must withdraw their circulation to force a return of gold by a general reduction of prices.

16413. What is the effect of that?—A return to low prices, at least a return to gold prices.

16414. Would not that be a return to real prices instead of nominal prices?—You may take it so.

16415. What would you call the present gold standard price of wheat?—It is 3*s.* 9*d.* to 4*s.* a Winchester bushel, you will have it so again next November.

16416. If there is a deficient harvest, shall we have it so then?—No; but if there is a fair harvest and the joint stock banks are controlled in their operations.

16417. Under our present gold standard, would you say that it could not be higher than 5*s.* a bushel upon an average of years?—Upon an average of years it will be barely the same price that it formerly was before the war and now is in the rest of the world, and that price is something under 5*s.*

16418. Would you say that it was the standard of value that kept down the price to that?—The nature of things keeps it down to that limit, if you are to have a higher price than the rest of the world you must have artificial means to produce it, or it must be a nominal price.

16419. *Chairman.*] You assume that there is no corn law?—The corn law cannot

cannot keep it up permanently, we know that by experience; the corn law has not kept it up the last 20 years; last February the price was under 4*s.* a bushel. The corn law did not then keep it above 4*s.* a bushel, and never will permanently.

16420. Was it the gold going abroad in 1825 that caused the panic?—It was entirely; it was evident that it was no action of the Bank willingly; they kept their circulation rather greater than it had been before, as long as they durst do so.

19421. Mr. *Cayley.*] Would you state that the measures proposed by Lord Londonderry were proposed in ignorance of their consequences?—Entirely so.

16422. What would have been the proper measure to have proposed in order to have effected a higher rate of prices and to have made those prices permanent?—There is nothing wanted but to do away the law that made gold the standard at the certain price of 3*l.* 17*s.* 10½*d.* per ounce, and to let the Bank pay at the market price of gold, then the thing would regulate itself; you would not have to consider the relative price of wheat and of gold in that case.

16423. Might not that have the effect of leading to unlimited depreciation?—No, it would counteract itself, there is no advantage in going beyond a certain mark; it would react by advancing prices beyond the necessary ratio without affecting any body, but you might put a limit if you feared excessive depreciation.

16424. Supposing you were to put a limit what would you say?—My opinion is, that as the circulation diminished 50 per cent. during the war, the alteration ought to be such as to double the present standard.

16425. Would not that be a great injury upon the parties who have entered into existing contracts since 1819?—Very trifling indeed, very much less than is supposed to be the case, there is a false position taken upon it altogether. In looking over some of the evidence before this Committee I see a question asked, "Would it not be unjust to give a man sixpence for a shilling?" Now that is something like taking a single text from the Bible which will sanction all crime without taking the context. There is one thing omitted which is, when you give a man a sixpence for a shilling you give him the means of passing the sixpence for a shilling, which quite alters the position.

16426. The general effect of the resumption of cash payments has been to lower prices?—No doubt it has.

16427. Has not that given a great advantage to all persons with fixed incomes?—I do not think it has.

16428. It may not have given an equivalent advantage compared with the magnitude of the change, but surely it has given a certain advantage to fixed annuitants?—Yes; but all the advantage that is given is what they have saved, and that is the way in which it ought to be looked at. Supposing a man to be worth 1,000*l.* a year in 1809, 1810 and 1811, and suppose he is worth 1,000*l.* a year now; let him shew what he has saved, what he saves now in his expenditure, compared with his expenditure then, and that would be all he would lose by going back to the original position.

16429. Would not that loss be very extensive?—No; it would not be 25 per cent. or anything like it.

16430. Do you mean to say that the great fall that has taken place in the wholesale prices has not extended itself to retail prices?—Not in any proportion.

16431. Would you say that the annuitant of 1,000*l.* a year has to deal with retail articles rather than with wholesale articles?—Yes, entirely with retail prices.

16432. Is that the ground of your opinion, that the effect of the change would not be so injurious?—Yes; it is not only that he has to deal with the retail articles instead of the wholesale, but there is another thing, that most of the articles are heavily taxed. Suppose an article pays 20 per cent. tax, you only get a reduction of price upon the net amount, not upon the tax amount; so that the reduction of prices in retail is in no proportion to the reduction in the wholesale.

16433. If there was to be a rise in the wholesale prices in consequence of an action upon the currency, would not that tend to raise the retail prices proportionably?—No; retail prices would have no occasion to rise higher than they did before.

George F. Muntz, Esq.

10 June 1836.

16434. Would not the retail dealers attempt it?—No; they would not be able to do it if they attempted.

16435. Do you think competition would prevent it?—Yes.

16436. You have stated what you consider to be the causes which led to the panic of 1825; what has been the state of prices since 1825?—A constant, steady reduction of prices, pretty nearly gradual from 1825 to 1835; ten years' regular reduction.

16437. Was that attended by a reduction of agricultural produce?—Yes; not so suddenly and not so soon; but there are many reasons for that. The agriculturist, with the aid of the corn and other laws, does not reduce his price till he is obliged to it. In the first instance the farmer will not dispose of his produce while he has any property to hold it with; and in the next instance, he will take credit with his landlord as long as he can, and after he has done that and lost his farm, some conceited man will come and take the farm, thinking he can do better; these are the reasons why it takes longer to bring down the agricultural produce than the manufacturing produce. The increased value of the pound sterling forces a correspondent reduction in the prices of our manufactures in the foreign markets, which is always followed by a similar reduction in the home trade; then come low wages, non-consumption of agricultural produce, with a proportionate reduction in its price; and that is the reason why the Corn Bill never answers its purpose. The indirect operation brings it eventually to the same end as the direct operation does manufactures.

16438. In your opinion and in your experience has there been great distress in the manufacturing districts?—There has been very great distress; there was very great distress in 1829, 1830, and continued in 1831, 1832; it got a little better in the end of 1832, and that was in consequence of a reduction in the price of the necessaries of life.

16439. Did you attribute that distress to any contraction of the circulating medium which took place in consequence of the panic of 1825?—It is exactly a repetition of 1819, 1820, 1821 and 1822.

16440. But latterly, for the last twelve months, there has been a change again, and there has been a tendency to rise?—There has.

16441. Why should prices have risen now?—There is a new system pursued, the joint stock bank system, which supersedes the Bank of England, and prevents their controlling the circulation as they used to do.

16442. In what way do they do that?—They can do without the assistance of the Bank of England, trading upon the principle upon which they do now. It used to be the practice, I believe, of country bankers to discount bills and to hold those bills till they were due, and then send them for payment; but the principle upon which the joint stock banks proceed is a very different one. In the first place, suppose a joint stock bank to have 500,000*l.* of subscribed capital, they will perhaps pay up of this 500,000*l.* only 100,000*l.*; then they have the general liability of each subscriber, which makes the public have great confidence in them, and they are enabled with this 100,000*l.* to grant as much discount and accommodation to the public nearly as if the whole 500,000*l.* was paid up in a private bank. Then by their principle of discount, they discount a bill for a man to day and send it to rediscount the next day, and they will get money on a third day to rediscount for another man, so that they will discount with the same money ten or a dozen times in a month, and that is the reason why they make very great profit by low charges in the course of a year, and they can give greater accommodation.

16443. Would you say that the facilities of accommodation are very much increased of late?—Very much indeed.

16444. Would you state that the facilities of accommodation now are greater than the facilities usually afforded before the resumption of cash payments?—Very much greater.

16445. You have stated that you think in the period of the last few months there is a repetition of 1817 and 1818 and 1824 and 1825; do you conceive that it will find a termination in the same way as those periods found a termination?—Exactly.

16446. Are the speculations at the present day of a similar nature to those in 1825?—There is this difference, that the speculations in 1825 were most of them for foreign purposes, and therefore the change was more sudden than it will

will be now; for the speculations at the present day being within the country do not take the money out of the country so rapidly.

16447. Will the consequence of a higher range of prices be necessarily, after they reach a certain limit, to drive goldout of the country;—will that withdrawal of gold necessarily cause a diminution of the Bank of England issues;—and will that necessarily cause a fall of prices, and a recurrence of adversity?—No doubt of it; you cannot maintain a higher range of prices than the continental prices with your present standard.

16448. Would you state then that those persons who wish for a continuance of the present state of things, and yet are unwilling to alter the standard of value, are desirous of the end, but unwilling to adopt the means?—Exactly so; they call an intentional alteration of the standard a robbery, but an unseen one they call prosperity.

16449. You have stated that there was great distress about 1829 and 1830; were there any political disturbances at that time?—There was political disturbance enough to cause the Reform Bill being passed; there would have been no Reform Bill asked for but for that.

16450. What did those disturbances spring from?—The people having such low prices that they could not get enough to eat at the then prices of the necessaries of life.

16451. Did that arise from the fall of prices?—Yes; the bringing the gold standard completely into action.

16452. Were you a member of the political union of Birmingham?—I was.

16453. Do you remember what led to the institution of that union?—Yes; nothing but seeing that the Government did not attend to the wants of the people.

16454. When was it formed?—In January 1830.

16455. Did the parties who established the political union of Birmingham give it as one of their main reasons that the fall of prices had caused a fall of wages and the disemployment of labour, and that they thought that the Government of the day did not intend to alter that state of things?—Exactly so.

16456. Would you say that the political feeling which caused the establishment of the Birmingham political union was not simply a matter of politics, but a matter of distress?—You would never have heard of it, if it had not been for the want of the means of the people to eat.

16457. Then it was distress which caused it?—Entirely.

16458. You have made some observations with respect to the Corn Bill, what is your opinion of the Corn Bill that was established in 1815?—If it was established merely for the purpose of keeping up the price of corn without believing that it would support the price of wages in conformity, it was one of the most infamous measures that ever was propounded.

16459. Do you believe that it was passed in ignorance?—Yes.

16460. Do you apprehend the intention of the corn law to have been this, to establish a high rate of agricultural produce, while at the same time the alteration in our monetary system should cause a fall in all other prices?—No; I do not believe that the parties were so bad. I believe that the object was to obtain a remunerating price for their produce, with the idea that by that Bill the wages of labour would remain in conformity with the price of corn; and I believe that they knew nothing about the Money Bill, and that it was passed in as great ignorance as the other. But I am sure of this, that neither the Corn Bill nor the Money Bill could last six months without the two together. You could not keep the Corn Bill in existence six months without the Money Bill, nor the Money Bill without the Corn Bill; they balance one another and they support one another.

16461. Will you explain your opinion how they support one another?—By preventing the thing being seen in its proper light.

16462. Do you think the effect of the Corn Bill has been to blind the agricultural interest as to the real effects of the Money Bill?—Entirely; the corn law attempting to make wheat 8*s*. a bushel, and the money law attempting to bring it to 4*s*.

16463. Then they are counteracting principles?—Yes; but the one prevents the other from being understood; and therefore the Legislature have always been palliating, and no palliative can have a permanent effect.

16464. Would you recommend any other measure than that which you have already

George F. Muntz, Esq.

10 June 1836.

already alluded to in order to relieve the agriculturists?—I would recommend no measure except such a measure as should regulate the standard in conformity with their necessities; but I never would recommend any public measure for doing it. I think it is one of those sort of things that ought not to be made public before it is done.

16465. Do you mean that it must be done at once?—I mean that it must be done without the public knowing it.

16466. By the executive of the country?—Yes.

16467. What is the nature of the measure that you recommend?—The result of the measure would be this; to bring the gold standard in conformity with the debt, with the taxation, and with the necessities of the country.

16468. Would you recommend the re-adoption of a silver standard?—I think a silver standard is the proper standard; that is the general standard of the world.

16469. Will you state what are the advantages of the silver over the gold?—It is not so easily transported, and it gives a little accommodation to the banks to pay in silver instead of gold.

16470. Supposing we were to have a change from the present market price of silver to the present coinage price of silver, what effect would that have?—I think it would be better let alone; it would have so little effect that it would be better to leave it alone; it might make 10 per cent. difference in the standard, and it might make 12½ to 15 per cent. on prices; but that would be better let alone than done.

16471. Mr. *Sanford.*] What is the amount at which you would fix the silver standard?—I think no man can fix the standard; it must be left to find its proper level.

16472. Then it would be a fluctuating standard?—Till it has found its level. Supposing that at the end of the war, after being 20 years without a standard, after having increased the debt 500,000,000*l.*, and increased the population, and increased the prices of all articles; supposing you had never had a standard before, how would you have found a standard? what plan could you have taken to have found it? The natural plan would have been to see what the price of gold and silver would be compared with the rest of the property and produce of the country, and then you would have got the just standard.

16473. At what period would you fix the standard?—If the standard had been left open at the end of the war it would have found its own place.

16474. Mr. *Cayley.*] Do you mean to say that the nominal price of gold would have risen to a level with other prices?—The nominal price would have been in conformity with the price of the rest of the property and produce of the country, if the liability of the Bank to pay in gold in six months after peace had been repealed.

16475. Is it your opinion that in order to found a proper standard at the present day, you should allow prices by an issue of paper to come to such a degree as to give general prosperity, and then to make the gold price conformable with the range of prices that was giving prosperity?—That would be the result of it, that would be the general principle acted upon.

16476. The general range of prices would not be required to be so high now in consequence of the great reduction in taxation?—I do not know upon what principle we are to have the same proportion of taxes during peace as during war. We were labouring under heavy and most oppressive taxes during the war, and most people say as taxes are reduced now, you must make the standard in conformity with the reduction of taxation; but I think we ought to expect a great reduction of taxation after the war.

16477. But there is a nominal reduction of about 40,000,000*l.*?—Yes, but there has been a virtual increase of 15,000,000*l.* Supposing the taxes to be 45,000,000*l.* now, it takes double the quantity of labour and double the quantity of produce upon the average to produce a pound sterling of taxation, and therefore if you double the 45,000,000*l.* it brings you to 90,000,000*l.* at once, and that is 15,000,000*l.* more than it was during the war.

16478. Are you understood to say that if the taxation was paid in produce it is 15,000,000*l.* higher now than it was during the war?—Not to day because the market price is higher than it was, but you will probably have it as low in November as it has been at all.

16479. That is to say if there is no scarcity of wheat?—There will be no scarcity;

scarcity; I have just come 200 miles through the country and I never saw it much better.

16480. Would you re-establish the 1*l.* pound notes?—Yes, I would, they never ought to have been taken away.

16481. Do you think they had any part in producing the panic of 1825?—No; I do not see why 1*l.* notes should produce a panic more than 5*l* notes.

16482. Would not the effect of 1*l.* notes be to drive the gold away?—No, the gold goes away now nearly as fast as it did then.

16483. Do you think that if prices continue to rise, the gold will continue to go?—Every atom of it out of the Bank.

16484. Without going to your plan of having the market price of gold the standard, which is to fluctuate with the price of gold and silver in the market, would you consider that if silver was taken at 5*s.* 6*d.* the ounce, its present coinage price, and that there were 1*l.* notes added, that that would have the effect of producing from 15 to 20 per cent. alteration in the prices?—Fifteen per cent. at the outside.

16485. What was the old standard price of silver?—Five shillings and two-pence.

16486. Was not that standard price relaxed by the law against melting and and against the export of gold?—It was.

16487. To what extent?—I do not feel competent to answer that question; I have never thought of it, I should think nothing very considerable.

16488. If the Bank of England knew that there was a law against the melting and export of coin, would not that give them greater confidence that the silver would not be exported?—Not if they have common sense, because they would know that such laws are always evaded.

16489. Although it could not entirely prevent the export of gold, still if no respectable houses would undertake the export of gold a greater premium would be paid upon the export in consequence of the law?—No doubt of it.

16490. Then the relaxation of the standard in consequence of that, would be in proportion to the premium paid upon the export?—Yes, but it would not be much.

16491. It might amount to two or three per cent?—Yes, at the utmost; it might be got out the shortest way, and afterwards re-exported at less expense than a long distance would be undertaken at in the first instance.

16492. It is your opinion that the present rise of prices, unless there be some alteration in the standard, will not be permanent?—No, it is already re-acting by cutting off our export trade; our export trade is reducing hourly.

16493. Do you say this from your own experience?—Yes, there is scarcely an article that we manufacture at Birmingham of which the export is not only reduced materially, but many of them cannot be exported at all in consequence.

16494. Would that be the case, if the price were as high as it is now in consequence of the depreciation of the standard?—No, if the depreciation was in conformity it would not matter; if you advance manufactured goods from 100*l.* to 200*l.*, and you take half the quantity of foreign money per pound, it would make no variation in the price abroad.

16495. Mr. *Attwood.*] The export of goods would not be checked by an advance of price occasioned by a variation in the standard?—Not at all, it would be rather encouraged; the very same alteration in the standard would cause a state of real and permanent prosperity in this country, which would very much increase the consumption of foreign produce, and that, of course, would materially increase the consumption of our exports abroad.

16496. Mr. *Cayley.*] Would you consider that the nominal increase of the exports is any test of the prosperity of the country?—No, just the reverse; because every man is trying to do more business, to make up for his want of profit; if a tradesman has not the usual profit upon his return, he endeavours to increase the return, so that the quantity may make up for the low rate of profit.

16497. Is it the disposition of men, in order to meet adversity, to work double hours and to sell double the quantity of produce, or is it a matter of necessity?—It is not their disposition but their necessity.

16498. Are there some parties that prosper by these low prices?—Yes, those that have got ready money go to necessitous men, and cheat them.

16499. Do you suppose that that has gone to any extent, that large capi-

George F. Muntz, Esq.

10 June 1836.

talists have taken advantage of the distresses of their neighbours?—Yes, and some few have gained by it.

16500. Do you think that the tendency of the fall in prices from the resumption of cash payments, has been to act very injuriously upon the small capitalists, and to give some advantages to the very large capitalists?—Yes, it has been prejudicial to all the industrious classes.

16501. Would you have advocated the continuance of the inconvertible paper system?—No, I never did; I never liked it.

16502. In your opinion, we have merely returned to a wrong standard of value?—Yes.

16503. Do you conceive that the higher prices of agricultural produce that would arise from a law such as you would establish with respect to the standard, would be no disadvantage but an advantage to the manufacturing interest?—A very material advantage indeed.

16504. You think that both parties have equally suffered from the erroneous standard of value?—No, I think the sufferings of the manufacturers have been nearly ten-fold compared with the farmers; but the farmers have not come at half their sufferings; they are just beginning to feel it; they know nothing of it yet; we have got rid of it; we have slipped it upon your shoulders, and you will get it off if you can.

16505. Will you state why you think the adversity of the agriculturists is just beginning?—It is very evident your prices have only reduced in conformity with the standard latterly, within the last two years; and within the last three months, you have just got a sort of relief by the operation of the joint stock banks, but the next reaction will bring your prices lower than they ever have been yet.

16506. Are you not aware that a great many articles of agricultural produce have been high lately, compared with wheat?—Yes, they have.

16507. The price of wool?—The price of wool is high, in consequence of the rot among the sheep four years ago.

16508. To what do you attribute the high price of meat?—To the small quantity of it, the rot of sheep, and its consumption by the wealthier classes.

16509. Why should barley and oats bear a high price?—There has not been a fair crop for several years, therefore the Corn Bill interferes.

16510. Do you say that from your own observation?—Yes.

16511. Are you yourself conversant with the agricultural districts?—I have never been a farmer, but I have had land of my own for years, and I know a good deal about farming.

16512. Are you acquainted with the farmers of your district?—Yes; I have several relations that farm very largely.

16513. Do they complain of the inability to reduce the retail prices?—Yes; I have generally taken an interest in the subject, and I have always made a point of asking every agriculturist I have met with his opinion upon different points, and I always found that they cannot reduce their retail expenses, that is, the expenses of their blacksmith and their wheelwright, &c. &c., in any proportion. But there is another thing, they cannot reduce their rent, and their rates, and their tithes, in any proportion. But I do not hesitate to say, that you will not have a shilling of rent upon the land in a few years.

16514. Would you extend that observation to every species of land?—There is some land which is let at an enormous price, in consequence of its locality, that would not come within the rule. But speaking generally, the expenses of cultivation will take all that the land will return.

16515. Do you say that upon the average of land?—Yes, I do.

16516. Then in your opinion half the arable land in the kingdom will be thrown out of cultivation?—No doubt of it; and we shall have a state of starvation.

16517. You think that the present apparent prosperity is a mere breathing time?—I do not think it is a breathing time, for there is very little profit made now.

16518. Would you state that whenever there has been a freer circulation of money so as to produce a better state of prices, there has been consequent prosperity both of the manufacturing and of the agricultural producers?—It depends in a great measure upon the position of trade at the time that the increased circulation takes place. Provided that our prices have reduced themselves

selves into sterling prices as low as the rest of the world, and that we have established a very extensive export trade; on this footing the reaction, or the increase in the circulation, immediately produces an advance in price, just as it did this time twelve months.

16519. Were the labourers ever better off than they are now?—I think they were fully as well off before the end of the war as they are now.

16520. Has not the condition of the labourers very much improved in the last few years?—Within the last three years, by the reduction in the prices of the necessaries of life; but they are beginning to complain of the late advance of wheat and potatoes, they find that their limited wages are not in proportion to it.

16521. Is that in consequence of a real rise, and not of a nominal rise as would occur in consequence of a depreciation of money?—Exactly so.

16522. Is the consequence of that real rise in prices to cut off the export trade?—It is cutting it off very rapidly.

16523. Does that diminish the demand for labour?—Yes; the demand for labour is diminishing for that reason.

16524. Will the consequence of that be, an inability to purchase food at the present price?—Yes.

16525. Is that the cause of their complaint?—That is the cause of their complaint. At the present time when every body has his mouth full of the prosperity of trade, there never was such a fallacious thing in the world, for trade is not prosperous, there has been no profit generally; I do not call it prosperity when people carry on business for amusement.

16526. Have not they been making a profit the last few months?—No; quite the contrary. The bulk of the manufacturers have been losing money the last few months; they have not been able to put anything like the advance upon their articles that the raw material has advanced.

16527. Do you say that from your own experience?—I do.

16528. Mr. *Sanford.*] When you speak of their having lost, do you mean that they have actually lost money upon their speculations, or that they have not made that amount of per centage which they ought to have done considering the speculation in which they were engaged?—I believe that in the last two years, a great proportion of the tradesmen in our part of the world have not got a single shilling; they have been carrying on business and doing a great return, and many of them not knowing what they have been doing, and at this moment many of them are in a situation of ruin. They have been doing business for the sake of amusement.

16529. Mr. *Cayley.*] Will men, generally speaking, carry on a losing trade for a number of years together?—They cannot help it, because they have their establishments and they cannot get rid of them.

16530. Taking the period from 1825 to 1835, (at which last period, you say, the present apparent prosperity began,) were they then sustaining a loss?—I have no doubt that from 1825 to 1835, a great proportion of the tradesmen never got what they spent to live upon; that the reduction in fact, of the value of their stock and the value of their different outlay, was altogether lost, and frequently sums in addition to that.

16531. Would not great calamity befal those persons in consequence?—Yes; great calamity has befallen many of them.

16532. Do you think that, even the late rise of prices has failed to give sufficient profit to the manufacturer?—I am sure it has.

16533. Should you state that the present condition of the labourers was upon a solid foundation?—The present condition of the labourer has been very much relieved by the reduction in the price of the necessaries of life, but if the necessaries of life are to advance in proportion to what you are hoping for, they will be in a very distressed situation; if you can get wheat up to 8*s.* a bushel, and potatoes in the same proportion, the manufacturer will be starving.

16534. That is to say, if those 8*s.* are real shillings?—Of course, supposing the present system to continue.

16535. Do you hold it impossible to have the price of 8*s.* per bushel for wheat under the present system?—I am sure it is impossible; you may have it for a few days or a few months, but you cannot keep it.

16536. If we have 8*s.* it must be 8*s.* of a different measure of value?—If our price of wheat is to be different from the rest of the world, it must be a nominal price.

George F. Muntz, Esq.

10 June 1836.

16537. And you believe that might be obtained advantageously for all parties by an alteration of the standard?—Yes for all parties; perhaps annuitants would suffer to a certain extent, but what is that compared with the mass of society.

16538. But taking the mass of society, and taking into consideration the engagements and the contracts and the taxation now existing, it would be advantageous to all parties?—I am sure it would; you would not only have no political disturbances, but you would never hear a complaint at all.

16539. Mr. *Morrison.*] When you speak of the manufacturers not getting profit do you apply that particularly to the trade of Birmingham and the neighbourhood?—I do; I know the trade of Birmingham well.

16540. Do you think they have had good export trade the last two years?—They have; I should say that the whole trade of Birmingham the last two years has been more extensive than it ever has been.

16541. During the period of low profits there has been more capital invested in manufacture than at any former period?—No, I do not know that there has.

16542. If there has been more trade, must not there be more capital to produce that trade?—No, I do not know that that is necessary in the way in which the Birmingham business is done.

16543. Are advances made by foreigners to them?—Yes, in a great many instances; almost all the business done between America and Birmingham is in ready money. The goods are often paid for by the American merchant before the parties who make them are paid.

16544. Are you aware that in America the interest of money is much higher?—Yes.

16545. Would it answer their purpose to advance money to the manufacturers of Birmingham before the goods are made?—They need not do that; the materials that the goods are made of are principally bought at three months' or six months' credit, the wages are paid weekly. The American merchant generally orders his goods one week and pays for them next week on delivery, and very commonly a great amount of goods purchased is paid for not only before the materials are paid for, but before the wages are paid for by the agents here drawing bills on parties in London and Liverpool who again draw upon America.

16546. Mr. *Attwood.*] Was that always the case?—No, only recently.

16547. Did the Birmingham merchant use to give credit for his goods to America?—Yes, very long credit, but nearly all the old people that used to give credit are gone.

16548. Mr. *Morrison.*] Then according to your statement the iron manufacturer supplies the capital since he gives long credit for the material?—Metal is of more consequence with us in Birmingham than iron.

16549. But the person that supplies the material furnishes the manufacturer with the capital?—Yes, in many instances.

16550. Formerly the trade with America was a trade of consignment or of export by the English merchant, was it not?—I believe it was to a considerable extent; but it was wearing away when I first came into business.

16551. Now the Americans come over here and purchase?—They do not come over so much, as they have a commission agent here.

16552. In fact goods are exported on American account rather than on English?—The fact is, that they are rarely exported on English account at all.

16553. Were not large losses formerly sustained by consignments to America by the manufacturers?—The manufacturers never consigned extensively to America; the manufacturers of Birmingham never consigned extensively any where; it used to be done in this way: An American merchant here bought the goods of the manufacturer, and he sent them to America, and gave bills to the manufacturer for them after a certain credit.

16554. Now he pays in money?—Yes, generally.

16555. Can a better state of things exist for the manufacturer than that he should have people come to his door and purchase his goods, and pay in ready money?—I do not find any fault with it.

16556. Is not it better for the manufacturer than the old system?—I think it is of very little importance; the fact is, it was not the manufacturer that gave credit before so much as the merchant that bought it and exported it; he might perhaps take the merchant's bill instead of cash.

16557. Have not the manufacturers' warehouses generally been very bare of goods

goods lately at Birmingham?—The fact is, that since the reduction in the necessaries of life twelve months ago, when the working people were enabled to live upon less than they had done, they have very rationally chosen instead of working twelve or fourteen or sixteen hours a day, to work rather less, and therefore they have not made the same quantity of goods. In the last two years the quantity of business done in Birmingham has exceeded the quantity at any other time.

16558. Have the profits been good?—No; in many instances none at all.

16559. Can you imagine a state of things in which a manufacturer having a demand for more goods than he can make, would not obtain a good profit?—Yes; that is the state of things at present.

16560. What produces it?—The competition with the continental market; a single alteration of 5 per cent. upon any of the Birmingham goods loses the trade.

16561. Do a great number of the articles manufactured at Birmingham come in competition in the market of New York with the manufactures of the Continent?—Yes, they do; the increase of American trade with Germany, France, and the Netherlands is extraordinary and daily increasing; they are superseding us.

16562. You advocate a depreciation of the present standard; to what extent would you alter it?—To its natural position.

16563. You say that is 50 per cent. lower than the present?—Yes.

16564. Do you mean by that that you would coin a piece of gold of the value of 13*s.* 4*d.* and call it a sovereign?—No; I would coin 10*s.* into 1*l.*

16565. Supposing to-morrow we were to decide to pass a law that half a sovereign should pass for a sovereign, do not you think that the next day every person who had any thing to sell would ask double the price for it?—No; he would not get an atom more if he did.

16566. Then when a man asks 20*s.* for a hat you think he does not require a certain quantity of gold in exchange for that hat?—I am sure he does not; he would as soon have paper as gold.

16567. He would take 10*s.* as readily as he would 1*l.*, provided that 10*s.* would do as well as 1*l.*?—Yes.

16568. Would not all commodities rise in exactly the same degree?—No, they would not.

16569. But if your doctrine be true, then the value of the piece of gold would be diminished one half; would it not as compared with other commodities, a hat for instance?—No; it will depend upon what the prices of the articles are. My opinion is, that if you altered the price of gold to what it was, prices would come to nearly the position in which they were at the end of the war.

16570. Supposing the outside fare of the coach from Birmingham to London were 10*s.* the day before the alteration was made, would not the proprietor require 20*s.* for it the next day?—I am sure he would not; and if he did he would not get it.

16571. You think that his oats and his horses and other expenses would not double?—I am sure they would not; his oats have not reduced yet.

16572. Mr. *Dunlop.*] Would not the foreigner who sends his goods here require double the price for them if you made 10*s.* go for 1*l.*?—Of course; and so much the better; and then we could not get his wheat under 10*s.* per bushel instead of 5*s.*

16573. And every thing else as well as wheat?—So much the better still; the higher we get his produce the better; we have no advantage in importing at low rates.

16574. Mr. *Baring.*] Would not the manufacturer then send out his goods to Mexico and get the same quantity of gold that he did before?—Just the same.

16575. For example, a cargo of axes would sell in this country for half as much gold as they did before; but that same cargo of axes transported to Mexico would exchange for the same quantity of gold that they did before?—Yes, until they had nominally advanced here.

16576. How could the cargo of axes sell in Mexico for the same quantity of gold that they did before, and in England for only half the quantity of gold that they did before?—They would sell in England for just the same quantity of gold that they did before.

16577. But the nominal price would be doubled?—Yes; that is the object.

George F. Muntz, Esq.

10 June 1836.

16578. Then in the case of that commodity the price would be doubled?—All commodities would be doubled provided they have reduced one half. Agricultural produce has not been reduced so low, and therefore it would not be doubled.

16579. Then in that case the hat would double in price?—So it would eventually, if it has reduced in proportion.

16580. And in that case the person getting into a coach to come up to London would have to pay twice as much money nominal value as he did before?—That depends upon whether the expenses attending a coach have reduced in proportion. I do not believe they have. I do not believe that the expenses of horses and oats and coachmen's wages have reduced in proportion; in fact, none of the retail prices.

16581. *Chairman.*] You say that the price of agricultural produce would not be doubled?—No; unless you suppose it to be at the very lowest; then wheat at 4*s.* would become 8*s.*

16582. If the price of all other commodities doubled the labourer's wages must be doubled to enable him to live?—That is a more difficult question. I take it on this ground. I have been asked the same question a great many times, How I should obtain any advantage for the working classes, supposing that the wages were acted upon by the alteration of the currency and the necessaries of life were also acted upon by the alteration of the currency? But it is a very simple thing; the wages of the labourers generally are reduced 50 per cent.; the prices of the necessaries of life have not reduced above 30 per cent. Now if you restore the original state of things and make the 50 into 100, it is an advance to the extent of 100 per cent. upon the manufacturer's wages, and that is much more than the rise that would take place in the price of the necessaries of life; the advance upon them at their present reduced price, of, say 33 per cent., would only be 50 per cent.; or to put it in plain figures, the advance on wages would be 50 *l.*, and on necessaries 33*l.*, which would leave 17*l.* for advantage to the artisan and reduction in price.

16583. Mr. *Sanford.*] When you speak of the wages being reduced 50 per cent. are you applying that to agricultural or to manufacturing wages?—Agricultural wages have not been reduced yet to that extent.

16584. Mr. *Cayley.*] Your observations apply only in those cases where the fall has become complete in consequence of the change in the value of money?—Of course it is very evident that if the reduction has not been realized in all cases the return will not be realized.

16585. That is the reason why you state that if wholesale prices doubled in consequence of the depreciation of the currency, the retail prices would not rise in the same proportion?—There will not be a necessity for it.

16586. Is not it the fact, as Mr. Baring said some years ago in the House of Commons, that the postchaise-boy who had his half-crown during the war will have his half-crown now?—He does; scarcely any of those things have reduced.

16587. Supposing the change that you propose was to take place, would that chaise-boy have his 5*s.* instead of his 2*s.* 6*d.*?—No; you may go further than that; servants' wages are nearly as high as they were during the war, but the footman would not rise from 15 guineas to 30 guineas, or 30*l.* to 60*l.*

16588. Mr. *Morrison.*] You think that is the class that has particularly benefited by the change in the value of money?—Yes; and the reason is, that almost all those classes that have not reduced are those that form part of the luxuries of life and are dependent on the better classes and all the reductions that have gone to an extreme are those that have come in contact with the working classes. In the articles of luxury which are consumed by the better classes the reduction of price has not been in proportion.

16589. That is to say for those services which you receive as a traveller for example, you continue to pay the same sum that you formerly did, and if the standard was altered we should still give boots 6*d.*, though in point of fact we should only be giving him half as much as we now give?—And in point of fact you now give him 6*d.* where you used to give him 6*d.* in depreciated money.

16590. Mr. *Heathcote.*] You say the necessaries of life have not fallen above 30 per cent.; are you aware what was the price of wheat in 1812?—One thousand eight hundred and twelve was higher than the average.

16591. It appears that the price of wheat then was 122*s*., and last year it was 39*s*. ?—I made an exception of the late state of prices.

16592. But when the last year was only 39*s*., and in 1812 it was 122*s*. can any one say that the chief necessaries of life have only reduced 30 per cent. ?—I say, that upon the average, the necessaries of life till within the last two years have not reduced above 30 per cent., and the prices of the last two years are the ground for appointing this Committee.

16593. Mr. *Cayley*.] Is not the fair way of estimating prices to take a longer range than one or two years ?—Yes ; there may be local and particular circumstances which cause an alteration in a year or two.

16594. Taking the range of prices from 1795 to 1819, should not you say the price was about 80*s* ?—I do not recollect the average exactly, I suppose it was ; I recollect when the first corn law was passed the law was regulated by that, and it was regulated at 80*s*.

16595. Would not that be some confirmation of your opinion that what was considered a remunerating price would be that which was chosen as having been in existence 20 years preceding ?—Yes.

16596. You have been asked whether the labourers are not the parties that have profited by this state of things ; can you consider that the state of the labourers can long be in a safe and prosperous condition when it does not depend upon the profits of their employers ?—Of course not, it cannot be permanent.

16597. That state of things which you have described, namely, a fall in prices and great adversity and great want of profits among the manufacturers may be coincident with a rate of wages which has not fallen equivalently with the fall of prices. Under those circumstances the labourer will be comparatively in a thriving condition provided he has employment, but can employment in your opinion be carried on for many years together without a profit to the employer of the labour ?—No ; I should say if a man does not get some profit he cannot last for ever, he may live upon his substance for a time.

16598. When his substance is exhausted, what will be the condition of the labourer ?—The labourer will be starved to death for want of employment.

16599. Mr. *Morrison*.] If his capital be exhausted he will not be able to employ the labourer ?—Certainly not.

16600. But have we not, in point of fact, been employing more and more labourers every year in our manufacturing districts ?—The last few years.

16601. Have not we the last 10 or 15 years ?—No.

16602. Has not the population been constantly increasing during that period ?—Yes, but the population has been half starved and kept upon poor laws instead of being kept upon legitimate work.

16603. Is it not the fact that much more capital has been employed in the construction of mills in Lancashire and in Yorkshire ?—No doubt of it.

16604. Has not that been the savings and profits of those manufacturers ?—No, in many instances it has been laid out by people that have not saved anything.

16605. Have they not been built by persons who are engaged in manufacture ?—A man often joins in manufacture that has never been in business before, and many assist in building works whose names never appear.

16606. Must not that money have been derived from profits gained in trade, in manufacture ?—No, he may have money left him or given him, and he may want to employ it to make a profit.

16607. Do not you think that it is the industrious classes chiefly, that is to say, the trading and manufacturing classes, who increase by their savings the amount of capital in the country ?—It depends upon whether they are employed profitably.

16608. Do not you think the fact of more capital being in the country, is a proof that it has been employed profitably ?—No ; suppose the property in this country in 1813 was 4,000 millions, and supposing you reduce it to 3,000 millions, you will not want any thing like that quantity of capital to transfer it, that you did before ; and capital will lie idle and appear to have increased though it has decreased.

16609. Mr. *Attwood*.] Should you consider a low rate of profit, and a vast accumulation of capital in the hands of a small class, consistent with a general state of straitened circumstances among the productive body ?—Exactly the reverse ;

George F. Muntz, Esq.

10 June 1836.

reverse; it is a certain proof that every thing is in an unsound and unprofitable state; the accumulation of capital in the hands of a few large tradesmen is certainly a proof of an unsound state of things.

16610. Do you consider that that is a state of things which frequently accompanies a decline of commercial nations?—I believe always.

16611. You have said that the town of Birmingham takes a great interest in the question of political reform, have they the character of being a dissatisfied town?—That is a great mistake; they are a very well satisfied town; they are naturally a well satisfied and well conducted people, if they have any thing to put in their interior; but they are not satisfied when they are hungry.

16612. Was the character of being forward to show dissatisfaction in political affairs formerly the character of the town of Birmingham?—Just the contrary; they never troubled themselves with any thing of the sort till the corn laws; then a great many of them saw through the impolicy and the injustice of them, and they petitioned the House against them.

16613. Was the town of Birmingham formerly considered as possessing a loyal character?—Very loyal; they were nearly all Church and King to the back bone.

16614. You ascribe the change in their politics to the change in their circumstances?—Entirely, without exception.

16615. Did the labouring class join the political union?—Yes; they did almost all.

16616. Did that arise from deteriorated circumstances on the part of the labouring class?—Entirely from the pressure of a constant reduction in their means.

16617. Then your opinion is that the labouring class in Birmingham have suffered a deterioration in their circumstances since the war?—They have suffered 50 per cent. in their wages; in some instances 75 per cent.

16618. And that has not been compensated for by the fall in provisions?—No.

16619. You are convinced that they themselves have felt that their circumstances are changed for the worse?—Yes, I am; and I am convinced of another thing, that they are quite aware that high prices of necessaries, with proportionate means of getting them, are more in their favour than low prices without these proportionate means of getting them.

16620. Was it the conviction that their circumstances were deteriorated that induced them to join in those political unions?—Yes.

16621. You have said, that the taxes bear as heavily now upon the people as they did at the highest period of taxation during the war?—Very much heavier.

16622. Then all the efforts of which we have heard so much, to reduce the Government expenditure for the sake of reducing taxation, have been a mere delusion?—Yes; they have.

16623. Is it the fact that, as fast as the Government were reducing salaries with one hand, they were in a concealed manner putting salaries on again with the other?—It was the fact, though I do not believe they knew it. The fact is, that they sometimes put on more than they took off a great deal.

16624. With reference to the corn laws, the object of those corn laws having been on the part of the landed interest to maintain a higher price of corn, were their efforts defeated also by the money laws passing at the same time?—Yes; they were defeated, but at different periods they have certainly injured the industrious classes very materially by keeping up temporarily the price of the necessaries of life, but they are entirely defeated as to keeping up the intended price.

16625. They can produce no permanent effect?—They cannot.

16626. If they should produce permanently by means of corn laws such a price as 8*s.* for wheat, would that operate as destructive to the labouring and productive classes under the present system of money?—It would not only operate to their prejudice, but that of other parties also, because there would be a complete reaction in progress of time, and then the price of wheat would go back from 8*s.* to 4*s.*

16627. Did you ever see that in the report of the committee of the American Congress it was stated that the corn laws in this country were an effort on the part of a particular class to escape from the pressure of the money payments?—No doubt of it.

16628. And

16628. And that that effort would be in vain?—Yes; I have seen that.

16629. Mr. *Heathcote.*] You were understood to state, that a depreciation of silver to 15 per cent. would be so trifling that it would not be worth while to attempt it?—My opinion is, that a half-measure is bad for any class. If the landed interest were to have an alteration of 15 per cent., they would be two or three years in finding out that it is not sufficient for them; but if they go on as they are now, they will find out in a shorter period that it is quite necessary to alter the system more efficiently.

16630. You were understood to state, that the mechanics of Birmingham do not generally dislike high prices, provided they are accompanied by high wages, therefore you think they would be decidedly averse to any system which should produce a competition of low wages with the manufacturers of the continent?—They look at it in this way; they say that the necessaries of life are reduced so much, and we find that we are not so well off as we were at the high rate, because our means are reduced more in proportion. At other times they have called out for low prices, because they hoped to keep to their original wages; but now they have found that if there be a reduction in the price of the necessaries of life, there must be a greater reduction in their means of obtaining those necessaries.

16631. It appears that the price of wheat the last five years was 55*s.* and the average of the five years after 1808, is 103*s.* Now surely the fall, there is more than you spoke of?—Yes? but I expressly excepted the two last years, and 1808 to 1813 are the five dearest years together, during the war, in corn.

16632. Is there any idea at Birmingham that the price of bread is higher than it ought to be, in reference to the price of corn?—Yes; it is a general feeling; and that comes to what I said before, that the reduction in the retail is never in proportion to the reduction in the wholesale, and it never will be; at least, if possible, it will take many years to produce the same reduction in the retail prices as in the wholesale prices.

16633. *Chairman.*] In what particular trades has there been a reduction in wages of 75 per cent.?—In the piece-work; in many of the branches of the manufacturing work; a great proportion of our manufacturers are paid piece-work. Owing to the competition of the continent, one of the most fearful things at present is, that the present advanced prices are entirely destroying our trade, not only with the continent, but the continental manufacturers are superseding our trade in other foreign parts. At present our trade with Spain is almost entirely cut up by the Germans. There is one striking fact I can mention; they actually take our cotton twist from Manchester now and take it to Germany and manufacture it into cotton stockings, and undersell us in the American market 30 per cent.

16634. Mr. *Attwood.*] Is any advance of prices here followed pretty speedily, by letters from abroad complaining of the effect of the advanced price in their market?—Immediately; as soon as you send an advanced price to the continent, the next post you get a letter to suspend their orders; I have had them repeatedly. We have lost in Birmingham within the last ten years a number of trades entirely, in consequence of the alteration of prices. The present prosperity, as it is called, is one of the greatest curses that ever happened. The advance is altogether speculative, and the great proof is this, that not one single article is advanced in the manufactured state in the first instance; but that the advances have been upon the raw material, and the advance upon the raw material cannot be put upon this manufactured article, and whenever you put it upon the manufactured article you lose the trade altogether.

16635. Mr. *Sanford.*] Yet, in your memory, there never has been so much business done at Birmingham as in the last two years?—No; the advances have only taken place the last six months.

16636. Mr. *Attwood.*] Was there as much done in the years 1824 and 1825?—Yes; there was a great deal done in 1824 and 1825, but it was not chiefly continental business and export trade; and now it is not continental business and export trade; the great increase is in the home trade, in consequence of the speculative advance of prices; our export trade is decreasing hourly, but the increase in the home trade more than makes up for it for a time. I will state some of the articles that we are cut up in. I mentioned stockings, scythes, sickles, buttons. Now with respect to buttons, I can assure the Committee that

George F. Muntz, Esq.

10 June 1836.

within the last two or three years that trade has almost entirely gone in the continental trade; they not only undersell us there, but they export them to Spain and to Italy and to America.

16637. Mr. *Clive*.] Are not metal buttons very much disused?—Not on the continent. There were also a vast quantity of horn, pearl and covered buttons made in Birmingham. The horn button trade was a very extensive trade; I have exported many thousands a year of horn and covered buttons, and within the last two years my traveller in Germany wrote to me to say they contemplate making horn buttons; they are now 2*s*. 3*d*. the gross, and if you do not reduce them to 2*s*. they will make them. I asked the manufacturers; they said they would not reduce the price; and now not only have the foreigners superseded us in their own market, but they are actually sending them to Birmingham and selling them in competition with us, and we have lost the trade. When they once establish a manufacture you cannot get them out again, and at present the advance of prices is the immediate cause for the establishment of manufactories on the continent; and when a man has once laid out his money in a manufacture you cannot get him out again.

16638. Sir *Robert Price*.] Do you consider that your proposed alteration of the standard would remedy that?—Entirely; the reduction in the wages of labour has been 50 per cent. in the manufacturing interest; the reduction in the necessaries of life is only 30 per cent. Now suppose the standard to be altered, and to return to our original position, the 100*l*. which is reduced to 50*l*. will become 100*l*. again; that is, the manufacturer's wages will be increased from 50 to 100, which is 100 per cent. advance; 50 per cent. reduction requires 100 per cent. advance to make the same thing; the 30 per cent. reduction, or say 33 per cent. reduction, will only require to be made up again, which will be 50 per cent. advance upon the original amount; if you advance 66 to 100, it is only 50 per cent. upon the 66; then the difference between the advance in wages and the advance in the necessaries of life will leave 50 per cent difference for increase of wages, and room for competition with foreigners.

16639. Mr. *Sanford*.] Would that enable them to manufacture the buttons at 2*s*. a gross?—Yes, and every other article as well as buttons; that is the point upon which the whole thing turns; the general argument is, that the alteration would make no difference in the artisan's position, but it is not the fact.

16640. Then the result must be, that a deterioration of the standard would have the effect of lowering prices?—Yes, it would in the continental market.

16641. And in the home market too?—Yes, in some instances.

16642. Mr. *Attwood*.] Will you explain how it would lower prices in the continental market?—The manufacturer would get more wages in proportion than are really necessary for him to get; that is to say, he would be enabled to compete with prices abroad, and at the same time to obtain a remunerating price.

16643. Mr. *Sanford*.] The deterioration of the standard at the period of the paper circulation had the contrary effect, it raised prices?—It did, but not in the same proportion as they are now.

16644. Were not the prices in England relatively higher than on the continent at the period of the paper currency?—They were, but they were not as high relatively then as they are now; just in the same way that our taxation, though it is apparently reduced, is really increased.

16645. Mr. *Dunlop*.] Are not a great part of the goods exported to the continent paid for by a bill of exchange?—They are, or we draw for them.

16646. Then though you might alter the currency, you would draw for the same amount of gold that you have always done?—Yes.

16647. Then the price would not alter in the slightest degree?—Yes, the exchange would alter 50 per cent. Take the French exchange at 26 francs for the pound sterling, you send 100*l*. of goods out; now you must have 2,600 francs for them. Suppose the 100*l*. advances nominally here to 200*l*., then our standard is doubled, and the French exchange goes to 13 francs, you would still have 2,600 francs, and that is what I want. I want prices to be 100 per cent. higher here than they are now, and to remain nearly the same abroad as they now are.

16648. You would get no more for your bushel of wheat than you do now?—You would get no more in gold, but you would get relatively, with taxes, rents, rates and other expenses, a great deal more; you would get an alteration

in

413

in the price of foreign goods to a certain extent, but there would not be an increase of the taxation that you now pay here, or upon the foreign goods imported; you would have the same taxation to pay in nominal amount that you have to pay now, but you would find a great deal of difference in the facility of paying it.

16649. Mr. *Sanford.*] The great gain then would be in the taxation?—No, that is the smallest part of it; the taxation is a small proportion of the difference in the operation; it would operate upon every labouring man's wages.

16650. *Chairman.*] Would it lower them?—It would raise them in most cases, and lower them in others.

16651. Mr. *Attwood.*]—At the prices of goods for the last twelve months, you think the export trade will be lost?—It is going away every day.

16652. Would it follow from thence that there must either be a fall in the wages of labour, or a diminution of employment on the part of the manufacturing labourer?—The natural result is, first, the want of employment; and then follows the non-consumption of agricultural produce, with a reduction in the price of the same soon afterwards.

16653. Must a reduction of the present wages of manufacturing labourers follow a diminution of foreign exports?—Invariably.

16654. Then, that taking place, suppose a higher price of agricultural produce could be maintained, could those manufacturing labourers sustain that high price?—No.

16655. Would it be attended with the greatest possible pressure and distress among them?—It would be attended with such distress, that you would not be able to keep the manufacturers in any thing like bounds; they would eat you up at last. If you had not had the fall of agricultural prices and the operation of the joint stock banks, you would have found the difficulty long ago.

16656. Would not a lower rate than the present agricultural prices be necessary to keep the manufacturing labourers quiet at all under a fall in manufacturing goods?—The fact is, that the manufacturers could not consume the necessaries of life at their present prices unless they were fully employed.

16657. Mr. *Clive.*] What do you mean by full employment; how many days a week are they employed now?—It depends upon the nature of the work.

16658. What do you call a full week's work?—Working all the week.

16659. Do they do it now?—Some of them do.

16660. Do they work Mondays and Saturdays?—My men do always.

16661. Have they any holidays?—Yes, twice a year they have half a day at each fair, and at Christmas, and generally Good Friday.

16662. Sir *R. Price.*] You consider that a depreciation of the standard would enable you to send out your goods to Spain, which you now cannot do?—Yes.

16663. Your belief in this is founded on the circumstance, that the price of agricultural produce has not been depreciated in the same degree as labour or as manufactured goods?—It has not certainly; the price of manufactured goods has been reduced above 50 per cent.

16664. Then the effect of that alteration will be not to raise the price of agricultural produce so much as it would raise the price of all other articles sold in England?—Of course, exactly; I wish to reinstate both the agriculturist and the manufacturer in the position which they were in the best part of 1825, when all interests prospered and all classes were contented and happy, and to maintain that position. The only mischief in 1825, was that the gold and silver were not allowed to advance with other property, and therefore they could not remain in the country, thereby obliging the Bank to contract the circulation.

16665. Mr. *Attwood.*] Would the effect of the depreciated standard upon your Spanish trade be this that selling your goods for the same quantity of Spanish money as you do now, that same money would bring you a larger amount of British money than it does at present?—In the British pound of nominal value.

16666. Therefore you could afford to sell the goods in Spain for the same Spanish money that you can now and yet get a profit?—Yes and lower, because I should not have to pay the same proportionate price here. The reduction in the manufacturers' wages having been 50 per cent. there would be room allowed after he had advanced with the standard still to reduce his price, that is, the proportionate price would not be the same.

16667. Mr. *Dunlop.*] Then your whole idea of the advantage of the change is this,

George F. Muntz, Esq.

10 June 1836.

this, that some things would double in price and some things would not?—That is rather an extraordinary position to put it in.

16668. If you sold your goods in Spain for the same quantity of silver that you now sell them for, it would be no advantage to you unless you could get for that silver a greater quantity of goods in England than you can now?—I am not looking for advantage to myself, I care very little about it. The advantage to be looked for from an alteration of the standard is more to the agricultural interest than the commercial interest, for the commercial interest has means of getting over it which the agricultural interest has not, they are relieved by their necessities reducing the consumption of provisions and consequently their prices.

16669. Will not the advantage to the agricultural interest be by cheating all the people to whom they are at present under obligations?—Not at all.

16670. Sir *Robert Price.*] Would not the advantage to the agriculturist be less than to any other class?—Decidedly so, because he has not come to his worst position yet.

16671. Mr. *Dunlop.*] You stated that most articles in England would double in price?—Most wholesale articles.

16672. Suppose I had a mortgage for 2,000*l.* I should pay it off with 1,000*l.*?—No, I do not see how that could be done.

16673. If I had 1,000 sovereigns in my pocket and you make those sovereigns worth 2,000*l.* of course I give them to you for the mortgage?—Yes, if you had a thousand sovereigns. But suppose you do not happen to have the 1,000 sovereigns, and how very few could have them at one time.

16674. Mr. *Sanford.*] The effect of that depreciation will be to make a bushel of wheat which is now worth 4*s.* worth 8*s.*?—Yes, the same as the corn law is intended to do, and can you pay rent and other liabilities with wheat at 4*s.* a bushel?

16675. Supposing I have now to pay every year 1,000*l.* as a charge upon my estates the effect of my getting 8*s.* for that for which I now only get 4*s.* would be to give me the power of paying that charge of 1,000*l.* and to have another 1,000*l.* in my pocket?—Yes, but then a man does not eat nothing but wheat, and wheat is not yet reduced permanently to 4*s.* a bushel; in addition to which though you gain as I wish you should, the mortgagee would pay your depreciated 1,000*l.* away again for 1,000*l.*

16676. Are not other things regulated by the price of wheat?—No, certainly they are not.

16677. Mr. *Dunlop.*] Did not you say that the price of every thing would double?—No, I say that the wholesale prices generally will, but that the retail will not.

16678. Mr. *Sanford.*] Taking the other principal articles of consumption, are you prepared to say that those are not reduced nearly 50 per cent.?—I am prepared to say that they are not reduced 30.

16679. Has soap not reduced 50 per cent.?—I cannot say, but I know that when I analize my expenditure I cannot save 30 per cent.

16680. Are candles reduced 50 per cent.?—No.

16681. Tea?—No.

16682. Sugar?—No.

16683. What is the reduction in those articles?—I can only say this that when I analize a thousand a year now and a thousand at another time during the war prices, I cannot find a reduction in expenditure of 20 per cent., but I may ask you how much you save in rent, tithe, servants' wages, meat, coats, boots, hats, wine, coals, taxes, &c., &c.

16684. Mr. *Dunlop.*] What is to become of all those proprietors that have let their farms at 19 years' leases?—The proportion of them that have done so is very trifling, the great proportion of lessees are old takes or yearly tenants, and those gentlemen that have allowed a discount off their rents are now putting them on again within the last three months.

16685. Sir *R. Price.*] Were you rightly understood, that if a law were passed which should make 10*s.* pass for 1*l.*, any article that came from abroad would sell at once for the double?—It would eventually, except in cases where there is a duty upon the article; where there is a duty it would be no increase upon the duty; look at French brandy, the duty is three-fourths of the price; brandy would not increase materially because there would be no increase on the tax.

16686. Mr. *Attwood.*] You were asked whether in the event of a depreciation of

of the standard, a creditor, who had a mortgage upon an estate, would not be cheated; has not the debtor been cheated by a return to cash payments?—It does not need to answer that question; every body knows it; but it is not a question who shall cheat and who shall not, but you may go on, if possible, scraping and screwing, and carrying on this system, scarcely making the income meet the expenditure, till you are obliged to go to war, and then you cannot keep it five weeks, and that time will come.

George F. Muntz, Esq.

10 June 1836.

16687. Then gold payments have operated as a fraud upon debtors?—It has been a benefit to about 25 per cent. of mankind in England, by the robbery of 75 per cent.

16688. Are many payments still existing upon which that fraud is going on?—Many.

16689. What would you think of an argument which should say that you cannot depreciate the standard on account of its being a fraud upon creditors, and yet should not take any steps to remedy the fraud upon debtors?—I should think the man that made the remark, somebody that wanted to cheat the next party he met with.

16690. *Chairman.*] You said the duty would not alter on French brandy, would it not be necessary to raise the duty on French brandy?—Not at all; the exchanges would protect us; the same operation that decreases our prices in the foreign market will increase the price here. I beg to say one thing with reference to the position in which we are placed with respect to our trade, and that is, that the general opinion that trade is invariably prosperous, and that every man is getting profit because there is a great deal doing, is a most fallacious one. It is decidedly the reverse; trade, though done in large quantities, is not prosperous, and we are every day losing our trade in this country, which is being carried to Germany and France, and to the Netherlands, and they are rapidly superseding us in other parts of the world.

16691. Do you consider that the agriculturists are in a greater state of prosperity than the manufacturers are at the present moment?—No, I do not think either are prosperous.

Martis, 14° *die Junii*, 1836.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Shaw Lefevre.	The O'Conor Don.
Mr. Cayley.	Mr. Lock.
Mr. Evans.	Mr. Morrison.
Mr. Wodehouse.	Mr. William Miles.
Mr. M. Attwood.	Mr. Young.
Sir James Graham.	Mr. Robert Clive.
Mr. Sanford.	Mr. Heathcote.
Sir Robert Peel.	Mr. Bingham Baring.

Mr. SHAW LEFEVRE, in the Chair.

The Earl of *Radnor*, attending by permission of the House of Lords; Examined.

The Earl of *Radnor*.

14 June 1836.

16691*. Mr. *Cayley.*] HAS your lordship given much attention to the subject of the manner in which money operates upon prices?—A good many years ago I thought a good deal about it; but it is now many years since.

16692. When you were Lord Folkestone, in the other house of Parliament, you took a considerable share in the debates upon that subject?—Yes, I did.

16693. You are aware that a great change took place in prices about the commencement of the late war, not long after the commencement of the French revolutionary war?—That is undoubted; I apprehend I am not old enough to have taken a particular notice of prices at that time; but I believe that is an historical fact of which there can be no doubt.

16694. As far as your acquaintance with history goes, would you say that English prices for a century or two previous to 1792 had been pretty steady at about 40*s.* a

The Earl of *Radnor*.

14 June 1836.

quarter, looking particularly to wheat as the standard?—I apprehend that it was so; but that can be easily ascertained, of course, by the returns.

16695. Subsequently to 1797 was there a great alteration in prices?—I think it was in the year 1797 that one of the first great alterations took place in the price of wheat, and that two or three years afterwards a considerable increase again took place; I think it was in 1801 or 1802, but I am speaking merely from recollection.

16696. One thousand eight hundred and 1801 were years of scarcity?—Yes.

16697. The rise which commenced somewhere about 1797 continued to the end of the war, did it not?—It continued with fluctuations till the end of the war; it was not uniform.

16698. Was there a progressive increase in the price till the termination of the war?—I believe not; the price of wheat was higher in some years than in others. I rather think in 1801 or 1802, or 1803, it was particularly high, and after that it fell again; the price of corn of course depends upon the seasons as well as upon the value of money; and there was, if I recollect rightly, a considerable variation of seasons about that period, which occasioned a very great fluctuation of price, independently of any increase or fluctuation that may have arisen from the quantity of money.

16699. Those variations will always take place; but the rate of price under the scarcity will be much higher when there is plenty of money, than when there is a dearth of money?—Of course the price of wheat will vary, not only in consequence of the state of the currency in the country, but also in consequence of the variation of the seasons; both causes, I apprehend, will influence the prices; but they are independent of each other. They may both influence the price in the same direction, or they may tend to counteract each other. For instance, if there is a great quantity of currency, that will naturally raise the price of wheat or any other article, and a very abundant year would tend to lower it, then these two causes would so far counteract each other; if, on the other hand, there was a year of scarcity at the same time that there was a very large quantity of currency, the two causes would co-operate to raise the price.

16700. At the time that the price of corn was high during the war, did the prices of other commodities and other agricultural produce correspond with the price of corn at that time to a certain extent?—They rose, I apprehend; the price of every article rose from the superabundance of currency; other articles are not liable to the same variation from seasons as corn; but they are liable to variations from other causes, which may accidentally increase the supply or diminish the demand, or *vice versa*.

16701. As prices seem to be acted upon by two different causes, namely, by the increase or decrease in the quantity of money, and by the increase or decrease in the quantity of the commodity, would it be any test in your lordship's mind that the higher prices of the war were, generally, promoted by an increase in the quantity of money, if all prices rose during the war as well as the prices of agricultural produce?—Most undoubtedly.

16702. Do you attribute that increased quantity of currency which existed during the war, and which promoted those higher prices, to any particular Act?—To the suspension of cash payments of the bank and the Acts which authorized that suspension.

16703. Which Act took place in 1797?—The first took place in 1797 I think, the consequence of which was that there was a currency current in this country, that was inconvertible, and therefore could not be exported.

16704. Since the war a lower range of prices has prevailed?—Certainly.

16705. To what do you attribute that lower range of prices?—I attribute the general fall of prices, not speaking of wheat only, but of wheat and of other articles, to the contraction of the currency, which was owing to the passing of the Act generally called Peel's Act, and the return to cash payments.

16706. Prices began to fall before 1819, immediately after the end of the war?—I believe that fall was owing to the contraction of the currency in anticipation of the return to cash payments.

16707. Did the bank take any steps with respect to that anticipation?—I apprehend so, but I am not at all cognizant, except from casually reading papers or pamphlets; I am not in any other way cognizant of what the bank have done.

16708. Was there immediate distress consequent upon the passing of Mr. Peel's Bill

Bill in 1819?—I think there was as far as I recollect; the effect of it was immediately felt; if I recollect rightly, prices had been falling previously, and they continued falling; but I am merely speaking from recollection.

16709. Did that distress extend to all classes, both to the manufacturing and agricultural in 1820, 1821 and 1822?—I believe so.

16710. Did you attribute that distress at that time to the fall in prices?—I apprehend very much to the fall in prices; other causes have been stated at different times, but I think they can be so easily accounted or by the fall of prices that it is needless to go further to look for the cause.

16711. In your lordship's opinion, the great cause of the general fall in prices was the contraction of the paper currency consequent upon Mr. Peel's Bill in 1819? I have no doubt of that.

16712. Subsequently to 1822 were any measures promoted by Goverment, in reference to the currency with a view of relieving the distress?—I think it was in the summer of 1823 an Act was passed allowing the issue of 1*l.* notes. If I recollect right, I opposed that in the House.

16713. Were other measures taken by Government, such as loans to parishes?—There were loans, I believe, not to parishes, but there were measures taken to relieve the distress; but I really do not know any particulars upon the subject.

16714. As far as your lordship's recollection goes, was there a co-operation between the Government and the bank to stimulate a larger issue of paper at that time?—It was so stated, and I believed it; I had no means of knowing it.

16715. In consequence of the re-issue of 1*l.* notes and other means which were used to stimulate the issue of paper, what was the effect upon the country?—Prices rose, and then came that state which was described by the present Lord Ripon, when he was Mr. Robinson and Chancellor of the Exchequer, as a state of extraordinary prosperity, which was followed by what is generally called the panic, in the winter of 1825, 1826.

16716. To what cause, in your lordship's opinion, is the panic of 1825 fairly to be attributed?—I really do not think that I am competent to answer that question; I should say generally the issue of 1*l.* notes gave a great stimulus to speculation; the issues I believe both by the Bank of England and by country bankers were very extensive. Speculations were embarked in to a great extent. I apprehend that gold was exported from the country. In consequence of some check which originated, I know not where, there was a demand for gold, and then a panic seized the people; there was a universal rush for gold, and the panic became universal, and the distress was very great, and it was declared by Mr. Huskisson that we were within twenty-four hours of national bankruptcy.

16717. Would you state it as an unquestionable consequence of a larger issue of paper than the standard can sustain, that it must be followed by a drain of gold?—I apprehend that if there is a larger issue of paper than is called for by the necessity of the case, more than the operations of the country will naturally absorb, together with the gold that is in the country, that it must be followed by the exportation of gold.

16718. If there be any operation, such as is now going on with the joint stock banks, and if we act for a time independently of the Bank of England, may not the tendency of that be to raise prices and so to diminish exports?—I apprehend that if the joint stock banks issue a great quantity of paper, the tendency at all times of the issue of paper is to raise prices; that may be counteracted for a certain time by the export of bullion to the same extent as the surplus of paper that is issued; the moment there is an excess of currency, taking gold and paper together, beyond the demand, of course prices will rise.

16719. When there is a check of the exports, in consequence of the higher price in this country making it less profitable to foreign countries to buy, will there not at the same time be a tendency for the imports to increase, which, if they are not paid for by the exports, must be paid for in gold?—I presume so.

16720. If the prices, therefore, are raised by paper above the standard price of gold, the necessary consequence will be, that a large issue of paper, more than is consistent with the standard, will drive the gold abroad?—I have no doubt of that.

16721. Could you conceive a state of things whereby the standard should be made conformable to a higher range of prices than the present standard is?—I can conceive an alteration of the standard.

16722. If there was an alteration of the gold standard so as to make its nominal

The Earl of *Radnor.*

14 June 1836.

price, instead of 3*l.* 17*s.* 10½*d.*, 4*l.* or 4*l.* 4*s.*, could not a larger quantity of paper ride safely upon that altered standard, and as safely as the present quantity of paper rides upon the present standard?—I am not quite sure that I understand the question; but if a pound was to contain four guineas worth of gold, instead 3*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.* worth of gold of the same quality, it would be of greater value; if the ounce of gold was coined into so many more shillings, of course the shillings would be of less value.

16723. And so much more nominal paper would be converted into the same quantity of gold?—Exactly.

16724. Therefore an altered standard could safely support a higher range of prices?—The standard altered in that sense might occasion a higher range of prices.

16725. Since 1825, has the general tendency been to diminish the circulating medium?—I have no means of knowing that.

16726. Have you heard of any increase of prosperity lately among the manufacturing classes, which appears lately to have partially extended to the agricultural classes?—I have heard for some months past in common conversation, and only in common conversation, for I have no means of knowing it otherwise, that the manufactures have been, in every part of the country, in a very thriving condition; that both in the cotton districts and in the woollen districts, and likewise at Birmingham and at Gloucester and the northern parts of Wiltshire, the manufacturers have been fully employed, and that every thing has been very thriving, and that to all appearance it was upon the most wholesome foundation, not on speculation, but that articles were not made upon speculation, but only in consequence of orders; that I have understood to be the case for some months last past. In the course of the last three or four months, there has been a considerable rise in the price of agricultural produce, which did not take place till about January last.

16727. Are you aware that there are other causes in operation which may have produced the rise in price in some articles of agricultural produce?—I have heard the rise of price in agricultural produce accounted for in a variety of ways; I do not know that any one of those ways is very well authenticated.

16728. Some articles are comparatively much higher in price than others; meat for instance?—Meat, I understand, has risen in price very much of late; and I understand that that has been accounted for by the numerous deaths that have taken place, particularly among sheep, in consequence of the bad season for the lambing. In Scotland and in Wales, I have understood, that it has been a most miserable season, and that a great amount of sheep and lambs have perished.

16729. Are you aware that there was a great deficiency of the last turnip crop in the south?—Yes, there has been.

16730. But generally speaking you say that there is a tendency to rise in agricultural produce?—I believe there is no doubt of it.

16731. Have you heard of any increase in the issue of joint stock banks of late?—I was told by one gentleman that he knew that it was so, and that he knew of one case where a joint stock company in the north have issued a million of paper; but I have no knowledge of any facts that I can speak to myself.

16732. You are aware that there are returns made of the issues of joint stock banks?—I was not aware of that.

16733. If between March 1835 and December 1835 there was an increase of 28 per cent. in the issues of the joint stock banks, would you state that that probably would have considerable effect in promoting a rise of price?—Beyond all doubt it would, if there was no corresponding diminution of currency from another quarter; if the same quantity of coin circulated and the same quantity of Bank of England paper, of course it would occasion an increase of price; I cannot state at all to what extent the rise would be.

16734. If from the returns it appears that their issues have increased in that proportion and other sources of issues have not diminished, then that would in your mind account for a little of the late prosperity?—It would account for the increase, in my mind.

16735. In your lordship's estimation was the Bill which is commonly called Peel's Bill a just measure?—I do not think that it was a just measure unaccompanied with other measures; I myself proposed in the House of Commons that it should be accompanied with another measure, namely, an alteration of the standard. I am free to confess that the alteration that I proposed was not at all

adequate

adequate to the extent to which it ought to have been carried, but I thought that the standard ought to have been altered when the Bill was passed.

16736. Was your lordship in the House of Commons in 1819?—Yes, I was.

16737. To what extent was it thought, then, that the Bill of 1819 would affect prices?—Mr. Ricardo, who was then a Member of the House of Commons, and was looked upon as the great oracle on these subjects; I think he said three per cent. but it was very small, it was under five per cent. I am sure.

16738. Was that the general impression of the House of Commons and the other House of Parliament at that time?—I rather think it was.

16739. Did your lordship hold that opinion at that time?—I rather think Mr. Ricardo's opinion was grounded upon the price of gold, and I believe, solely, without taking anything else into consideration, and I rather think that it was by that that I judged of it, but I very soon afterwards was convinced that he had formed an inadequate opinion.

16740. In 1823 your lordship took part in the debate which was originated by Mr. Western; at that time, in 1823, to what extent did you think that Mr. Peel's Bill had affected prices then?—I do not recollect; I do not know that I had any fixed opinion upon the subject; but upon one of those occasions, I do not know which, I think it was upon the occasion of a proposition of Mr. Western, now Lord Western, I proposed what was then called an equitable adjustment.

16741. In 1823 do you think that there had been any great alteration in the opinion which seems to have prevailed in 1819, the alteration being that the Bill of 1819 had caused a greater difference in prices than three or five per cent.?—I apprehend that that was the general feeling; but I really cannot speak with any certainty as to what was the general feeling upon that; I apprehend that that must have been generally felt, because I think it was in 1823 that the continuing of 1*l.* notes took place to a later period. I think, in the first instance, they were limited to 1823 and 1824, and then, in the Act that was passed in 1823, they were allowed to continue till 1831.

16742. Do you remember whether Lord Londonderry, in the speech which he made on the proposing the re-issue of 1*l.* notes, did it with a view of stimulating an increase of currency, and with a view of removing the distress?—I rather think he stated something of the sort; it was certainly with a view to the relieving the distress; that was the ground that was alleged for the bill.

16743. Do you think that in 1823 people had come to a full conviction of the effect that the bill of 1819 had or was to have upon prices?—I believe not.

16744. Upon the whole, what should you say, after all the experience we have had, was the full effect of the bill of 1819 upon prices, generally, and what was the fall that it occasioned?—I cannot estimate, but I apprehend very considerable indeed, and from rough guess I should say cent. per cent., or nearly so.

16745. Do you think that the prices have fallen half in consequence?—I should say very nearly so.

16746. Would not that have a great effect upon the means of parties to pay a fixed taxation or fixed engagements?—Beyond a doubt.

16747. If there has been a nominal reduction in the taxation since that time, you think it is rather nominal than real?—It is very possible there may have been a nominal reduction and a real increase, owing to the fall in prices; that is possible.

16748. In consequence of the change in the value of money from the bill of 1819, the taxation may have increased, even under a nominal reduction?—It is possible.

16749. What measure do you think would have been just and equitable in 1819, in the place of the bill which really did pass?—I really think that it would have been just to have altered the standard to an extent equal to the depreciation that had been prevailing before the passing of the bill; but as that depreciation was not uniform, in consequence of the various amounts of issues of paper at different times, it would have been necessary to have had some measure to meet the cases of contracts formed at different times, as I apprehend.

16750. Was such a measure pursued by the United States after the American war, and in the case of the French assignats?—Something of the sort was done in France at the time with the assignats.

16751. Was not a similar measure pursued with regard to Scotland once?—On two occasions, I think; I was once in possession of two statutes that were passed at different periods in Scotland; they were old statutes to meet similar cases, when the standard had been altered. The standard was avowedly altered, but I forget

The Earl of *Radnor*.

14 June 1836.

the date of those statutes; the difference between those cases and the present is, that though in effect the standard has been altered, it was never avowedly altered.

16752. If the test of depreciation taken by Mr. Ricardo, namely, the price of gold in 1819, was not a fair test, what in your opinion was the real test of the alteration in the value of money during the war?—I apprehend that it would have been very difficult to calculate what the depreciation was: and in order to form a just estimate, you must take a great many circumstances into consideration; not only the price of gold but the rate of exchange; and then probably the best estimate would be the prices of a great variety of articles compared one with the other, and compared with the prices of the same articles at different periods; but it is a matter extremely difficult, I apprehend, for any person, however conversant with those matters, to calculate.

16753. Would this measure of 1819, which caused such a change of prices, affect all private engagements as well as public engagements?—Of course; upon the principle which I have been stating, every payment would be affected and every engagement; and so I apprehend it was felt; it had been felt before; when paper was depreciated, the rate of fixed payments was very advantageous to the payer and disadvantageous to the receiver when the thing was restored; and when the standard was thus altered in effect, but not nominally, then the payments that had been fixed in a different state became very disadvantageous to the payer and advantageous to the receiver.

16754. Without any reference to the nominal price of the standard which you conceive ought to have been established in 1819, do you conceive that it was any advantage departing from the ancient standard of value of gold and silver?—No, I should think not; I do not see any advantage in it.

16755. Do you think it would be an advantage to have a silver standard or a double standard at the present time?—I really do not understand the advantage that would arise from the double standard. With respect to a silver standard, I should say, generally speaking, I should prefer a silver standard for this sole reason,—as every other country in the world has adopted the silver standard, and this country alone a gold standard, as I believe is the case, in all probability the others are right and we are wrong; and it is a matter of great convenience to all commercial people that the standard should be in the same coin in all countries. There may be some advantages, I should think, in having a silver standard over a gold standard, that the silver bullion is less valuable, consequently more bulky and less easy to be transported.

16756. Would not that afford some facility and some protection to the bank, in case of any run upon it?—I should conceive so.

16757. Would they not issue their paper with greater security if they had that protection?—I am not at all conversant with banking affairs; I should think the advantage of that sort would be very small indeed.

16758. If the effect of greater security and protection to the bank be to promote a larger issue of paper, and if, as you say, a larger issue of paper tends to raise prices, might not that tend to relieve the agricultural or any other interests which were suffering from the want of remunerating prices?—I do not know that a rise of prices from a change of currency would relieve agriculture; for, if the prices at which they sell rose in consequence of the alteration of currency, everything that they bought would rise in consequence of the same alteration: it would be as broad as it is long.

16759. Do you conceive that all prices have fallen in the same proportion?—As far as the currency is concerned, I have no doubt that they have fallen in the same proportion. I do not see that the question of currency is an agricultural question at all; the change of price, owing to the alteration of currency, cannot affect the price of corn more than the price of cottons, or hardware, or woollens, or more than any other article.

16760. Do you conceive that the same fall has taken place in retail prices as in wholesale?—I have no means of knowing that.

16761. The blacksmith's bill and the carpenter's bill, have they fallen in the same proportion?—I think it is very possible that they may not; but that I think may be accounted for from other circumstances: people have got into a habit of charging higher prices, and thus have got into a habit of paying higher prices, and do not expect lower.

16762. Then a change of currency may be slow in operating upon articles of that nature?—Yes.

16763. The ultimate tendency will be that they will all come to the same level?—I should presume so.

16764. You have stated, that there is no reason why a change in the currency should affect agricultural articles more than manufactured articles: should you not suppose that the operation upon manufactures was more rapid than upon agriculture?—No; I do not see any reason why it should be.

16765. The distress among the manufacturers was simultaneous with that of the agricultural in 1822?—I believe so.

16766. Do not the manufacturers depend upon some other market besides the home market for their demand?—Yes: the manufacturers I apprehend depend very much upon the markets abroad, and there has been occasionally a great distress; I apprehend, but really I am not competent to speak to these questions, I apprehend that great distress has been occasioned to the manufacturers in the north, by large exports to markets which have been expected to be very advantageous, and have turned out not to be so: but that is independent of the price of currency.

16767. Supposing the change of currency to have had an essential effect upon both, is it not possible that the manufacturers might be relieved by the increase of demand from foreign countries?—Certainly: I stated that, in a former part of my evidence, with respect to the price of corn, the price depends upon different matters; the price of corn will be affected by the value of currency, and likewise by the productiveness or sterility of any particular season. Those two matters may operate in the same direction to increase or to lower, or may counteract each other, and so each diminish the effect that the other would have. I apprehend that it is the same with manufactures; the price of manufactures would be raised or diminished by the rise or fall of the value of the currency; they will likewise be affected by the market that may be opened or may be closed; the opening or the closing of the market may act in conjunction with the other and in the same direction, or it may tend to counteract it.

16768. If there be this extraneous demand for manufactures, might not that tend to account for their recovering from the shock of 1819 sooner than the agricultural interest?—I have not a doubt so far as that operated.

16769. Mr. *Attwood.*] You were understood to say that you thought a rise of price would not relieve agriculture?—So far it would relieve agriculture: a farmer who has a lease, if he gets a better price for his cattle and for his corn, would be better able to pay his landlord; just in the same as the landowner, if his estate is charged with a jointure to his mother, or with portions to his brothers and sisters, if he gets a larger rent for his farm, he will be better able to pay it than if he gets a small rent; but it will not relieve the agricultural more than any other debtor.

16770. Do you not consider that a great extent of taxation bears heavily upon the production of the land?—I apprehend taxation is a very disagreeable thing; it bears hard upon all classes of society, and in every point of view, I apprehend.

16771. Your lordship considers that there has been no virtual reduction in the burthen of taxation effectually since the war?—I did not say that; I said that it was possible that it might be so, that it was possible that the rise of value may have been as much as the diminution of taxation, it may have been more, or it may have been less; the relief that the diminution of taxation would afford might be very much counteracted and entirely taken away by the fall of price, owing to the bill of 1819.

16772. You calculate as a rough conjecture that the fall of prices amounted to cent. per cent.?—I give that as a rough guess.

16773. And that would be the increase of taxation?—Yes, and of every payment, such as the payment of a jointure.

16774. Therefore if that calculation should be anything like accurate, then it follows that there has been no virtual relief from taxation effected at all?—I presume so; I do not know the amount of nominal relief from taxation.

16775. Would you think that there is a general impression among the farmers at large, that a rise in the prices would not be beneficial to them?—I think the impression of the farmers is the other way, that the rise of prices would be beneficial to them.

16776. The farmers think that if they could get 60*s.* a quarter for their corn, there would not be so much distress?—They do, and labourers too think so; it is a very odd thing.

16777. Does your lordship think that opinion altogether unfounded?—As long as the present leases last, it would be well founded, as far as relates to the payment

The Earl of *Radnor*.

14 June 1836.

of the landlord. As long as the price of labour did not rise, and the price of agricultural labour does not rise so rapidly as the increase of the price of agricultural produce, so long the farmer would be benefited; but in the long run, I apprehend that everything would rise in proportion, and that the farmer would not be benefited: and with respect to the talk of the great depression of agriculture and the high prices, my belief is, that agriculture is thriving as much now as in the time of the high prices; that there is as much progress made in the improvement of cultivation, as there was at any time during the high prices, generally speaking.

16778. Do you consider the agricultural interest in a flourishing condition?—I do not believe that it is otherwise, except in those respects where long leases are running, fixed at high prices, which occasion distress; but generally speaking, I do not believe agriculture to be distressed.

16779. Is that the general opinion of the farmers?—No, certainly not.

16780. It is in contradiction to the general opinion?—Yes, the general opinion is the other way I fully admit.

16781. Are there generally complaints of a severe state of distress?—Much less than there was a short time ago.

16782. There were very severe complaints a short time ago?—I cannot exactly state the period, but within these two or three years there have been universal complaints on the part of the farmers.

16783. Do you think those complaints are well founded?—They were well founded in consequence of the circumstances that I have stated, the general rate of the leases and the rents having risen prodigiously during the high price, and having never fallen adequately to the fall of prices.

16784. Are there fewer complaints now then there were two or three years ago?—Much fewer complaints at present I believe; that is owing partly to the rise of prices, and I believe a great deal owing to the New Poor Law Bill.

16785. And principally to the rise of prices?—Yes.

16786. Would that fact lead to the inference, that a further rise of prices would cause those complaints to disappear altogether?—I presume so. If the complaints were want of high prices, if they get the high prices they will complain no longer, at least they ought not. I have not very lately had means of knowing, but I believe there is now very little complaint among farmers.

16787. When you said that the high rate of prices would not materially operate upon agriculture beneficially or disadvantageously, you meant to apply the observation to a very long period?—In the long run.

16788. During the operation of a fall of price, you would anticipate great distress and embarrassment among the agricultural interest?—There can be no doubt. I apprehend that if a man takes a lease of 21 years, for instance, and the price at which the lease is set is fixed at the time of a very high price, and in expectation of the continuance of that high price, then if prices fall and the landlord is not induced to lower his rent, that then the man will be oppressed, and will have to pay a much greater rent then he ought to pay for the farm that he occupies.

16789. Does it appear to your lordship that the consequence of reducing the present quantity of money, as established by the Act of 1819, will be, to place the price of agricultural produce in this country somewhat upon a level with that which existed before the suspension of cash payments at the bank; is it your opinion that that will establish a range of agricultural prices, of which the best guide will be that range which existed before the suspension of cash payments?—That would be its natural tendency; but the price would be regulated by a variety of circumstances independent of that; the improvements in agriculture would tend to diminish the price, the increase of population, on the other hand, would tend to raise the price. There are so many circumstances upon which prices depend, that though the value of currency is a very great ingredient, beyond doubt, in fixing those prices, it is by no means the sole ingredient. The prices will not depend entirely upon that; and I apprehend the low state of the prices, of which people have been complaining of late, has been very much owing to increase of produce, owing to the improvements in agriculture in England, and to the importation of produce from Ireland.

16790. Have you ever considered the question, whether the price of corn does not in the long run maintain a remarkable steadiness of average price, independent of the causes which might affect the price of corn through an improved system of cultivation, on the one hand, or an increased extent of cultivation on the other?—I believe it is a matter of fact; but it can be ascertained by the returns that the price

of

of corn did maintain, up to the year 1790 or 1791, when the high prices first began, an extraordinary steadiness for upwards of 100 years. I am speaking merely from recollection; and I remember a great many years ago reading a book in favour of a Bounty upon Exportation. I think the author of the book's name was Dirom, attributing that steadiness of price very much to the bounty upon exportation.

16791. The tables which have been laid before the House of Commons exhibit, that the price of wheat for fifty years ending in 1794. was 39 *s.* 3 *d.* a quarter; and that for fifty years ending in 1696, just a century before, the price was 39 *s.* 4 *d.* a quarter; would that lead to the conclusion that wheat generally maintains a price reckoned in money, not much dependant upon increased population or improved cultivation?—It does not follow from that, I apprehend, that the price of corn was the same; because the value of currency may have increased or diminished in the meantime, I apprehend, ever since the discovery of the mines in America, up to the period when our currency was thrown into confusion by suspension of cash payments. I believe, but I am speaking ignorantly of the subject, there was a gradual fall of the value of coin in Europe from the time of Queen Elizabeth when the mines were discovered, up to a late period; whether that goes on now or not I do not know; that, I understood, was the case; and therefore, if that was going on during that century, the value of the corn may have risen though the nominal price was the same.

16792. Then, except there should be any increased introduction of the precious metals since the suspension of cash payments into Europe, you would anticipate a reduction in the prices of corn down to the price that existed before the suspension of cash payments?—I have no data to form any opinion upon as to the price to which it would fall.

16793. If you were desirous to form an opinion what the price of corn would go to when we return to cash payments, would you think the best criterion would be an ascertainment of the price which that standard of money may give to anything which existed previous to 1797?—That would be one of the ingredients for the calculation to be considered, a material one no doubt.

16794. Would it be varied by anything except a calculation, if such could be formed, as to the increased or diminished quantity of precious metals?—That would be varied by the increase or diminution of the precious metals; the value of the precious metals is increased or diminished in proportion to the supply or demand, just as every other article.

16795. And it follows from what your lordship has said, that excepting from the increase or diminution of the precious metals, you would not calculate upon any material alteration of the price of corn from that which existed before the suspension of cash payments?—On the contrary, I think it depends upon a variety of other circumstances besides the increase or diminution of the supply of the precious metals, the increase or diminution of the population, the improvement or falling back of agriculture, the opening of new markets; for instance, the supply that we receive in this country from Ireland must affect the market to a certain extent.

16796. If the fact really was that there was no increase in the money price of corn from the period of the discovery of America down to the Restriction Bill, if that should seem to be the fact, would your lordship expect that a return to cash payments would produce a rate of prices much different from that which existed before the Bank Suspension Act?—I conceive that the suspension of cash payments by the bank in the first instance, and subsequently up to the present time, the different operations which are going on in different parts of the world with respect to the precious metals under it, very difficult to form any calculation on that point.

16797. The return to cash payments, your lordship has stated, was a measure which must have made a great reduction in all prices?—Yes.

16798. To that extent therefore its effect was to produce a violation of all previously existing contracts?—Certainly it would; that is my opinion.

16799. You would have thought it a measure dictated by justice to have made a rectification of these previously existing contracts?—I think so.

16800. Does your lordship recollect the Act which was passed for an alteration of the size of weights and measures in 1824, substituting the imperial bushel?—Yes.

16801. If any contract existed founded upon bushels of wheat, would justice require those contracts to be rectified when the bushel was altered?—Undoubtedly, if you called a different measure a bushel you must alter the contracts.

16802. Does your lordship recollect whether a clause was introduced into that

The Earl of *Radnor*.

14 June 1836.

Act providing for a rectification of all contracts?—I do not think that I ever read the Act.

16803. Would your lordship think that a measure required by justice?—I do.

16804. Would it be required by justice in a stronger degree that such a rectification should take place than it was required when an alteration was made in the standard value of money?—I think so, and as I stated before, I myself proposed an alteration of the standard to meet what I had supposed the very injustice that you are now contemplating; that alteration proposed was very inadequate to what I think now ought to have been introduced.

16805. The same necessity would exist in both those cases, the bushel being the measure in which some contracts are expressed, and money being the money in which all contracts are expressed?—It was more imperative in the case of money, because all contracts are expressed in money payments.

16806. Your lordship is understood to have said that you think the just measure would have been, provided the present standard of value were introduced, to have admitted it with some scale which should have determined at what rate contracts should be altered and rectified,—a floating scale?—I did say that.

16807. Would your lordship think that such a scale as that is now equally demanded by justice to be applied to all contracts now in existence, but which bore date before the Act of 1819?—If it was practicable I should say it was, but I doubt the practicability.

16808. Would it be practicable to apply that rectification to any particular contract that should be brought before an inquisition appointed to examine contracts?—That I cannot take upon myself to say whether it would be practicable or not; I should doubt very much the practicability of it after the Act had been in existence 17 years.

16809. Is your lordship aware that with regard to weights and measures, it is now in the power of any person possessing a contract expressed in weights and measures and dated before the law which altered the size of the bushel, to require an inquisition to be held before whom he would bring his contract, and require it to be rectified in the degree in which the Act of Parliament has altered the weights and measures?—I was not aware of it.

16810. Supposing that to be the remedy which a person having a contract expressed in weights and measures has now the power to resort to, would it not be equally just and equally practicable that a person having a contract expressed in money, that he should get it rectified in a similar manner?—I conceive it to be equally just, and with respect to any one particular contract equally easy; when I spoke of the impracticability, I referred to the Act which was to meet all contracts generally.

16811. Does it not follow that it ought to be applied to all contracts to which it can practically be applied?—Yes, I should think it ought, it would be very difficult to say that it should be applicable to some contracts if it was not applicable to all; but I am speaking off-hand as of a thing which I have not thought of before; but it appears to me just, if there is a possibility of rectifying contracts, that it should be done.

16812. Is the whole of the national debt a contract which exists under such circumstances?—Yes, it is under such circumstances, but one part of it is under very different degrees of such circumstances from the other, and there is the great difficulty I apprehend.

16813. All founded in a standard as low as the present and sometimes on a standard lower?—The interest is paid according to a standard as low or lower than the present, but it was contracted in different parts under very different circumstances.

16814. If it should be established that the present standard is a higher standard than that which existed even before the war, then the national debt would be a contract to which some rectification would apply to the whole of it?—To the whole of that debt that was incurred under a different standard certainly.

16815. The question supposes that the present standard is different from that which existed prior to the Bank Restriction Act, and is a standard more in favour of the creditor than the standard which existed prior to the Bank Restriction Act; if that were established then the whole of the national debt would fall under that description of contracts, which now justly require rectification if practicable?—It would

would apply to all except that which has been contracted for under the present standard.

16816. Sir *Robert Peel.*] Suppose the nation were to undertake this revision, would it not be also just to enquire into the extent of loss which had been sustained during the war by all those parties who having advanced their money to the State at the old standard of value, received their interest in a depreciated currency?—Certainly injustice was done in that sense during the depreciation.

16817. And the nation was *pro tanto* a gainer?—Yes, and every debtor was a gainer to that extent.

16818. The man then who advanced money to the public before the year 1797, and received his interest in the currency which existed during the Bank restriction, would have a fair right to claim a review of those transactions, and to insist that compensation should be made to him for the loss he had sustained during the depreciation?—Precisely so; I think he would.

16819. Supposing that the present holders of the national debt are not the persons who originally advanced the money; supposing they have bought into the funds under the present standard, and on the assurance that Parliament meant to adhere to that standard, would it not be very unjust to visit them with any reduction?—Certainly.

16820. So that it would be necessary not to apply the reduction to the present holders of the national debt, not to those who have within the last fifteen years acquired their shares in the three per cents. or three-and-a-half per cents., but to trace back every individual transaction to the person who may have originally advanced the money to Government between the years 1797 and 1819?—They must have their remedy against the person from whom they bought their stock, and it would be such a complication that it would be utterly impossible.

16821. But the engagement on the part of the public was not that the payment should be made according to the price of corn, but the engagement as it appears on the face of the Acts of Parliament, was that the bank restriction should cease two years after the war, and that payment in coin should be restored; was not that the law?—I believe it was so.

16822. Was not that the legal engagement under which parties advanced money to the Government?—Beyond a doubt that is so in the letter of the law, but it was done by both parties in utter ignorance, or both parties pretended to be in utter ignorance, and utterly denying that there was any depreciation; because I recollect over and over again debates in the House of Commons where the parties have always denied that there was any depreciation; I am sure that every gentleman here must remember the celebrated resolution that was passed upon Lord Bexley's motion.

16823. Would it be just on the part of the public to say, we promised, it is true, to pay you in coin, but we find we were in error in certain political calculations, and cannot redeem our promise, but must make a reduction from the amount we owe you?—No, they might plead the letter of the statute, no doubt.

16824. What was the proposition you made in 1819?—It was for what was called an equitable adjustment.

16825. Do you recollect the exact terms?—No, I do not; I believe the exact terms were not specified.

16826. You say you did not propose a reduction of the standard at all equivalent to that which afterwards proved to be the depreciation of the currency?—I did not; that was from not being at all alive to the extent of the depreciation it was meant to meet.

16827. Supposing the legislature had actually adopted your view in 1819, and that subsequent experience had shown that view to have been erroneous; even in that case, on the principles assumed in foregoing questions; would it not now be necessary to revise all contracts made previously to the adoption of your plan?—Just the same.

16828. And upon the same principle on which it would be just to do it now?—It would have been more incumbent, because they would have admitted the principle, and they would not have gone up to it in practice.

16829. You think that prices have been reduced to the amount of 100 per cent. by the operation of the bill of 1819?—At a rough guess, I should say that the depreciation was cent. per cent.; that is quite a rough guess.

16830. Supposing that I should find that in the three years before 1819, in 1815, 1816 and 1817 meat upon the average was 3*s.* 9*d.* per stone; and that in 1830, 1831 and 1832 it was exactly the same price; would that warrant the conclusion

The Earl of *Radnor*.

14 June 1836.

clusion that prices have been reduced cent. per cent.?—There was a very great reduction of prices in the years 1815, 1816 and 1817, as I have understood, in consequence of the bank having diminished their issue of paper in expectation of the return to cash payments.

16831. Then you do not date the effects on price from 1819, but from some previous period?—Then afterwards there was a further issue; the stopping of cash payments was continued by several Acts of Parliament after 1815, and then they issued sometimes more, and then prices were raised, and at other times they contracted their issues when they thought that cash payments would be resumed, and prices fell; and if I recollect rightly it was the inconvenience which was felt by these alternate rises and falls of prices owing to the increase of issues and diminution of issues from the bank that very much brought the public to the feeling which was very universal at the time, of the necessity of coming to some close of that system, and return to cash payments; it was the universal feeling at that time, and the inconvenience that was felt from this extraordinary change of prices which was owing to the sending forth to the public at one time a great quantity of paper, and then withdrawing it when they expected a resumption of cash payments; the inconvenience was felt so greatly that there was an universal cry for putting an end to that state of things, if I am not mistaken in my memory.

16832. So that there was no question as to whether cash payments should be resumed or not?—The cry was for return to cash payments, to have gold.

16833. Do you consider that the return to cash payments has permanently affected the state of agriculture in this country; do you think that agriculture is less prosperous on that acount; I do not mean that particular classes of agriculturists may not have suffered; but do you think that the return to cash payments has prejudiced the cause of agriculture generally?—Not at all; my belief is that the science of agriculture has never ceased to go on progressively flourishing ever since I can remember, and it is progressing now as much as ever. I rather think that there has been a great start within this year or two particularly; there has been greater activity in draining, which is one great symptom of improvement in agriculture.

16834. Combining the importations from Ireland with the general advance of agriculture as a science, and the increased produce of the soil, you would admit that the combined operation of these circumstances must have a tendency to reduce the price of agricultural produce?—Beyond a doubt.

16835. And therefore in comparing the present price of agricultural produce with its price at former periods, before you can estimate the extent of the effect on price produced by the change of currency, must you not make allowance for that other effect, namely, that caused by the increase of produce and diminished cost of production on account of agricultural improvement?—Yes.

16836. After you have made that deduction, do you think it would be possible to maintain that the price of agricultural produce had been affected to the extent of 100 per cent. by the change of currency. Compare the present price of meat, or of barley, or of oats, or of any other species of agricultural produce, with its price at a former period, and allow for the effect on price produced by increased skill and increased produce, what are the data from which you infer that the effect upon prices produced by a change of currency has been 100 per cent.?—What I stated about 100 per cent. was a very rough guess, and that was that the depreciation which took place in the existence of high prices, was 100 per cent.

16837. What then ought to be the price now, supposing the old currency had continued, do you think that meat now would have been 16*d.* per pound?—If the old currency had continued, that is, if the bank restriction and the issues of unconvertible paper had continued, there would have been no reason why the price of meat should not have been 16*d.* or 16*s.* or 16*l.* per lb.

16838. It is quite clear that where there is a fixed engagement, and where by that engagement the rent is not to be raised for a certain period, a rise of price must in that case be a benefit to the tenant?—Certainly.

16839. Even where there is no engagement, a rise of price will be at first to the advantage of the tenant, because he will gain an immediate profit, and the landlord will not have on the instant an opportunity of making a corresponding increase in the rent?—In all probability not for a year or two.

16840. And the natural impression of all tenants is at first in favour of an increase of prices?—Yes.

16841. But

16841. But supposing the increase to be maintained for seven or eight years, do not you think that the necessary consequence would be that the landlord would claim his share of the advantage, and make a corresponding increase in the amount of rent?—Beyond a doubt.

16842. So far as currency enters as an element in the price of articles of consumption, would not all such articles be increased in price by the same cause which had increased the price of agricultural produce?—I have already stated to-day that that is my opinion.

16843. Therefore the continuance of high prices must lead to the increase of the rent of the occupying tenant, and also to the increase of the price of all articles of consumption?—Certainly.

16844. Then though the present impression of the agriculturist may be that a rise of price is a good thing for him (he judging from his present experience), yet would not the opinion that a permanent increase of price, caused by legislative interference with the currency be for his advantage, be altogether a fallacious one?—Quite so, in my opinion.

16845. Could such an increase of price benefit any man, except him who might be under a fixed engagement?—I apprehend not; that is my opinion, and always has been my opinion. During the change people are benefited, because prices do not always rise exactly with the value of produce, but permanently fixed engagements are only benefited.

16846. Should you say at present that there was a fair average demand for the labour of the agricultural labourers throughout the country?—In my part of the country that has been very much altered in the last few months by the Poor Law Bill. Now there is a fair demand.

16847. At present, can a man of good character, in possession of his health and strength, get constant employment throughout the year?—I cannot say of my own knowledge that he can get constant employment throughout the year; if he can, it it is very much owing to the operation of the Poor Law Bill. I have heard within a short time of some farmers in the west who have been engaging their labourers for three years, knowing them to be good men, for fear they should not have them when they wanted them.

16848. Do you think that a mere rise of price, caused by interference with the currency, would give any stimulus to agriculture?—Not a permanent stimulus; it would give it a phillip just in the first instance.

16849. But it would not cause any permanent increase in the demand either for agricultural produce or labour?—No, it would produce no permanent effect one way or the other I apprehend, and my belief is, that agriculture has been flourishing as much under low prices as it did in the high price periods, and been going on as equally.

16850. Do you think the invention of mechanical improvements applied to agriculture has had any considerable effect in diminishing the demand for manual labour?—There is very little mechanical labour; mechanics are very little employed in the diminution of manual labour; in some cases it may be, but I apprehend that the benefit of the application of machinery to agriculture is the same as in manufacture.

16851. You have said that the rise in wages does not for a time bear any corresponding proportion to the rise in the price of articles of subsistence?—I apprehend that is generally the fact, that a farmer is much slower to raise the price of his labourers' wages than he is to receive the increased prices of the market to which he goes to sell his corn.

16852. Then the effect of any action upon the currency would be to raise the price of bread, but not the price of labour?—Yes, though labourers I know in my part of the country were crying out for a rise of the price of bread, it was very absurd; but that was their feeling upon the subject.

16853. If an action upon the currency increase the price of wheat, and do not increase the price of labour, and if it do not give any permanent stimulus to agriculture, is it not quite clear that the condition of the labourer must be deteriorated by interference with the currency, for the purpose of depreciation?—Most undoubtedly; and labourers in my own neighbourhood, the neighbourhood of Salisbury, are feeling that in the present moment the price of bread is increased from 10*d.* to 13*d.* a loaf in these three months, and wages have not risen at all yet, consequently they are so much the worse.

16854. In case a kind and considerate landlord has a farm out of lease at pre-

The Earl of *Radnor*.

14 June 1836.

sent in your part of the country, is there any difficulty in getting a good tenant to take it?—I have never had any difficulty myself in getting tenants, and I have generally understood that there has been no difficulty on the part of any one.

16855. Have you had any occasion to buy land in your neighbourhood?—A very small extent.

16856. Is it easy to get land?—No, not just about me.

16857. What number of years' purchase should you say was a fair price?—I have lately understood that 28 years was the fair price. I have lately bought some at Folkestone under particular circumstances of locality; the quantity too was small. In that case I gave about 32 ½ years' purchase.

16858. Sir *James Graham.*] Considering the present price of articles of necessity, and the present rate of wages, should you say, in your memory, that the agricultural labourer was better off at any period than he is now?—The agricultural labourer is now better off than at any time since I have been living, at least he was a year ago.

16859. Taking the rate of wages and the price of articles of necessity into account?—Yes.

16860. Sir *Robert Peel.*] Do you think that the slight deterioration that there is in his condition is mainly owing to the rise of price in the last year?—I only speak of deterioration, knowing that rise of price; because corn has risen I make that inference.

16861. Sir *James Graham.*] Should you say that rents were either adjusted or were in rapid progress of being adjusted, in conformity with the present rate of wages?—I can speak only of my own; I presume that other people must adjust their rents with their tenants; my own are principally upon corn rents.

16862. Where such adjustment has taken place, is the tenant suffering?—Where it has taken place he is not suffering; where it has not taken place he is suffering.

16863. Then, as relates to the tenant, it is a question of rent more than anything else?—Yes, except that the price of articles is a great expense to the tenant.

16864. Taking the rate of wages and the rents adjusted to the price of corn, where those two operations have concurrently taken place, should you say that the tenantry was suffering?—The tenantry in general complain; I do not know whether they are suffering or not; they are very apt to complain.

16865. Whether justly or unjustly, you have no fixed opinion?—I cannot speak, I am sure.

16866. Mr. *Attwood.*] You mentioned that you think the farming interest would not be benefited by higher prices?—No, in the long run I do not think they would.

16867. Nor the labourers?—No, in the long run I do not think that any body would be.

16868. But both labourers and farmers themselves entertain an opposite opinion?—Certainly they are of an opposite opinion.

16869. You stated that agricultural labourers cannot, at present, depend upon permanent employment throughout the year?—A great change has taken place with respect to the situations of the agricultural labourers under the operation of the Poor Law Bill.

16870. That has improved their situation?—That has improved their situation very rapidly indeed; before that time there was great scarcity of work, but wherever that Bill has come into operation within my observation there has been rather an outcry for labourers than a deficiency of labour.

16871. Does your lordship remember whether there was ever any scarcity of work during the time of the high prices of agricultural produce?—I rather think not; that was the general impression; but it was at that time that the administration of the poor-laws became so injurious that it was necessary to correct it by a Bill two years ago.

16872. Do you think the farmer, during high prices, was always ready to give permanent employment to the whole number of labourers that presented themselves?—I believe not, and it was in consequence of their not being so ready that the paupers went to the magistrates, and that system of bread-allowance grew to the height that it was at last.

16873. If it should be found, that during the high prices, there was no such thing known as a man of good character wanting a day's work, that there was abundant employment for all agricultural labourers, would not that be rather a symptom that agriculture flourished more at that time than at the period when agricultural

labourers found a difficulty in procuring permanent employment?—It would be a symptom, undoubtedly, but only a symptom; there has been a great increase of population since that time.

16874. Which increase of population would tend to cause an increased demand for corn, and operate against the fall which might be produced by the increase of the production?—Yes; at the same time it should be stated that there are a great many people that suppose that the consumption of potatoes, by the labouring poor, is so great that their consumption of corn is comparatively trifling; that is not my opinion, but that is the opinion prevailing with a great many people.

16875. You were asked whether an increase of prices would be a permanent benefit to any one; and you were understood to say, No. Would not an increase of price which should bring up prices to the scale of the war, virtually affect the diminution of taxation to the extent of one-half?—The diminution of currency has raised the taxation, and an increase of currency which would increase the prices would diminish the pressure of taxation; but that is a permanent payment to make.

16876. Would your lordship think that that would be a permanent benefit to any individual in the country?—Beyond a doubt, to every person that has a debt to pay; if he can pay off a debt with 50*s.* instead of 5*l.*, that would be a benefit.

16877. Would not reduction of taxation to the extent of one-half, be a permanent advantage to every individual in the country?—If I could pay my taxes with 50*l.* instead of 100*l.*, that would be as beneficial to me as in the paying of any other debt.

16878. Mr. *Cayley.*] Did you borrow more than 50*s.*—No.

16879. Then, if you paid but 50*s.*, you would in fact not depart from that good faith which the original contract demanded?—But the letter of the statute said that you should pay; I think that is just; it was upon that principle, and that principle only, that I proposed the reduction of the standard.

16880. Do you think any body understood the letter of the statute to be that we should pay two bushels when we borrowed one?—I do not know whether it was generally understood, but I know when the thing was stated, and when it was alleged in the House of Commons that there was a depreciation, that it was most lustily denied by all the persons who subsequently benefited by it; the very assertion of it was resented as a thing that it was quite impossible to suppose, and we had regular philosophical arguments to prove that it was a thing impossible that there could be a depreciation.

16881. Notwithstanding all those philosophical arguments, it was actually true that the result of the Act of 1819 was to pay double what you had borrowed.—Yes.

16882. If the House of Commons had known that the effect of the Act of 1819 was to raise the price 20 or 30, or 50 per cent., do you think that the Act in 1819 would have passed?—I believe not.

16883. Do you conceive that that Bill was passed in utter ignorance of the consequences of it?—I believe it was; I believe that the idea of the depreciation that was supposed to exist, was, according to Mr. Ricardo's calculation, about three per cent.; I believe that was the general belief at that time; it was admitted that it had been greater.

16884. You have been asked if greater skill, and greater improvement, and greater energy applied to agriculture, may not overcome the effects of the Bill of 1819, and you answered in the affirmative?—Greater skill in agriculture and improvements might affect prices, in opposition to the effect of the Act of 1819; that is what I stated; I said before, that the fall or rise of price might be occasioned by different circumstances which might co-operate together or counteract each other.

16885. Then, if there has been any fall in price in consequence of the consumption of potatoes by the labouring class, or in consequence of the greater skill in producing the commodity, does that alter your opinion as to the effect of Mr. Peel's Bill upon prices?—No, those are extraneous circumstances which depend altogether upon different grounds.

16886. Is there any calamity which time and skill may not overcome?—I suppose not; I do not know.

16887. Great injustice was done for a great many years to the parties who suffered under the effects of Mr. Peel's Bill, that is, all the producing class in the country?—I believe great suffering was produced by that Bill.

16888. It affected the whole nation?—It affected every fixed payment that was made, every payment that had been fixed and determined before was affected by it, but at the same time I must add that a great deal of suffering had been undergone

The Earl of *Radnor.*

14 June 1836.

from the depreciation by persons who were receiving fixed payments during the depreciation.

16889. Was there any great complaint during the war of adversity generally?—I do not know, but I have heard great complaints of persons who were receiving money payments in depreciation times, and I think with great justice.

16890. Has there been great adversity among the working classes since 1819?—Yes.

16891. Do you remember an opinion expressed by Lord Eldon, when Attorney General, and by Lord Redesdale, when he was Solicitor General, that the Bank Restriction Act of 1797 was necessary for the safety of the bank as well as of the stockholder, because if the run upon the bank had not been checked by force of law the bank would have been totally ruined, and of course that the stockholder would have lost his all?—I was not in Parliament at that time; I may have read that.

16892. With respect to the condition of the labourer, can you imagine the condition of the labourer to be secure permanently, unless his wages are paid out of the profits of his employer?—I really hardly know how to answer that question.

16893. If the consequence of the change following upon Mr. Peel's Bill was to produce a great fall of prices, and that the fall of wages was much slower, can you conceive that state of things going on permanently that the farmer should be paying a higher rate of wages than his profits can afford?—Certainly the farmer will not continue to pay a higher rate of wages than he can afford to do.

16894. Has he not been for some years paying a higher rate of wages than his profits will allow, in your opinion?—I doubt it.

16895. Do you remember the time when Lord Grey came into office, when fires were taking place to a great extent in the south?—Yes, I remember that very well.

16896. Do you remember the occasion of that?—It is very difficult to say what the occasion was.

16897. To what should you attribute those fires?—There are many circumstances that tended to contribute to those fires; I believe the operation of the poor-laws and the harsh treatment that the labourers experienced had a very great deal to do with those fires.

16898. Were the labourers then thrown upon the poor-rates?—Very much.

16899. Was that in consequence of the incapacity of the farmers to employ them?—I should very much doubt that it was in consequence of the incapacity of the farmers.

16900. Did you ever hear that the fires took place in those parishes and those districts where the farmers had come to the determination to lower the wages?—I should think probably that that was the case.

16901. Did you ever hear that they were obliged to come back to the old wages?—Yes; the rise of wages was universal after the fires.

16902. And that was rather a compulsory rate of wages than a rate of wages proceeding out of profits?—Yes; it was the universal abandonment of machinery for a time, which was certainly disadvantageous to the pockets of the farmer, which he immediately abandoned after those disturbances, was a proof that it was not merely from his inability to pay the labourers.

16903. *Chairman.*] Was not the principal object of the farmer in lowering the rate of wages, to throw a certain portion of the expense upon the rate-payers of the parish?—I think so.

16904. Mr. *Cayley.*] When it is proposed to you to separate between the agriculturist and agriculture, do you think that that is a correct mode of putting the question?—I see nothing incorrect in it; I do not know that I have any right to give an opinion upon the correctness of a question; it was pointed out by the very question itself, that the agriculturist might suffer from previous contracts which he as an agriculturist had entered into, while at the same time agriculture would not be affected by the rise or fall of prices in the long run; the agriculturist may be much distressed from the engagements which he has entered into with his landlord, and yet agriculture may be flourishing.

16905. Would not the same arguments apply under every case of injustice?—I do not know what injustice the question refers to.

16906. In any case?—It would apply to any manufacturer. The manufacturer may have entered into an engagement to pay a certain sum of money; he may be very

very much distressed, but at the same time his manufacture may be flourishing; the matters are unconnected.

16907. Whatever injury may be inflicted upon any class which might be one of a temporary nature, say for ten or twenty years, if the energies of the country enabled it to struggle through that calamity, would that be any excuse for it?—Certainly not; but I do not know that any injury has been inflicted upon the agriculturist as agriculturist.

16908. But in conjunction with all other classes?—Yes; he has been affected with all other classes by the return to cash payments, but I contend that he has been no more affected than any other class.

16909. The calamities that have happened to him and the other classes since 1819 are to be attributed to the fall of prices consequent upon that measure?—Some of them.

16910. Would you not say that the majority of them are to be attributed to that?—I do not know that the agriculturist has been subject to any very particular calamities.

16911. You are rather incredulous as to the distress?—I am very incredulous as to the distress of agriculture; there are agriculturists, farmers, who are distressed, who have pinching landlords; and there are landowners who are distressed, who have great incumbrances upon their estates, but that is altogether unconnected with agriculture; I apprehend a man has an incumbrance upon his estate not because he is a landowner, but because he has entered into contracts to pay those.

16912. Might not that distress extend to some land which, having large fixed engagements upon it, not private engagements but engagements of taxation, might render him unable to pay any rent at all; taking the case of a very poor farm, the expenditure upon which was increased, and inordinately increased in consequence of the Bill of 1819, may not that fixed general engagement upon that land prevent any profit accruing from it, even without the consideration of rent?—Yes, certainly.

16913. Would not that affect the agriculture of that farm?—I have been told, I know little of it myself, there are some poor lands that have been thrown out of cultivation, and that, I conceive, possibly may be the case, without agriculture generally being distressed.

16914. Did those farms come into cultivation in consequence of the higher prices, or were they in cultivation previous to the war?—I apprehend that those to which I allude had been in cultivation previous to the war; a great deal of land was brought into cultivation on account of the high prices in the high downs of Wiltshire, which are now in cultivation, and are increasing in cultivation every day; and that is very much owing to the improvement of agriculture.

16915. Then, poor clay land which was in cultivation before the war, in spite of all the improvements made in agriculture, cannot now pay the expenses of cultivation, when before, it found no difficulty in paying them?—I do not know the cases to state what rent they paid for the farm, and what rent they are enabled to pay now; it may depend very much upon the disposition of the landlord.

16916. The question applies to land which will not bear any rent?—I do not know any land that will not bear some rent.

16917. *Chairman.*] Might not the improved cultivation of the light lands in Wiltshire, and in other counties, have had its effect upon cold clay lands, owing to their expensive cultivation, that they are now no longer able to enter into competition with the lighter lands, which grow wheat which did not grow wheat before?—Certainly.

16918. Then, the Committee may infer from the evidence of your lordship, that the distress is principally confined to those classes of farmers who are men without capital, or who are farming cold wet and expensive land, or who are farming under landlords who exact too high a rent?—So I presume.

16919. And that whatever may have been the effect of the Bill of 1819, that you would not wish to see the recurrence of high prices owing to any action of the currency?—I certainly do not wish to see any recurrence of high prices owing to an alteration of the currency. I do not know that I wish to see high prices upon any basis.

16920. And that high price would not be beneficial to the farmers, as they would be followed by higher rents, and the cost of labour would be increased?—Yes.

16921. Mr. *Attwood.*] Drawing the distinction between the state of agriculture itself and the different persons engaged in agricultural pursuits your lordship is understood to say that the body of men engaged in agriculture have not flourished

The Earl of *Radnor*.

14 June 1836.

in the degree in which agriculture itself has flourished?—I only assume that farmers have not flourished, because I hear it universally said, and I hear of universal complaints on all parts. If I was to judge of what I had seen myself I should say they were as well off as they were at any time. I see them living comfortably, and I see them out a hunting and riding very good horses.

16922. You do not think that the depreciation of price which has existed in the last five or six years has been accompanied with the ruin of any great number of the farmers?—As far as my own observation goes, I have seen nothing of that great ruin; I have heard it talked of over and over again, but I have seen no evidence of it; I have been called in my own case to lower rents most undoubtedly, and I have heard from others that they have done the same, and I make no doubt that they have, and to a certain degree that has met the difference; but still the result has been, that I have seen farmers having the appearance of living in ease and comfort.

16923. The result of your own observation is that there has been no extensive ruin among the farmers themselves, but the result of what you have heard is, that there has been distress and ruin: is that the manner in which your lordship is understood to speak?—I have heard it stated so uniformly that there is great distress amongst farmers, that I cannot withhold my belief of it to a certain extent; I have seen no symptom of it myself.

16924. In a previous question it was mentioned that the price of butcher's meat had fallen as low in the years 1815, 1816 and 1817, as that which is purchased in the years 1830, 1831 and 1832, and you were understood to have ascribed the fall of prices in 1815, 1816 and 1817 to the measure of the Bank of England reducing their circulation; do you recollect that the Bank Restriction Act expired by law within six months after the signature of the treaty of peace?—Certainly it was so; the Act was to expire within six months.

16925. Therefore the same necessity would exist upon the bank to reduce its circulation at that time as would be imposed upon the bank by the Act of 1819?—Certainly; they took the same measures as I always understood at that time, and the fall of prices was owing to that.

16926. You would expect the same fall of prices?—The same effect would follow from the same cause.

16927. Then a fall of prices following the same cause, thus uniformly and twice together, would that be a proof of the soundness of the opinion that a fall of prices would be produced by the preparations of the Bank of England to contract the currency?—Yes, it adds practice to theory.

16928. Your lordship was understood to say that the constant fluctuations of prices occasioned by the measure of the bank at one time issuing, and at another time contracting its circulation, caused a demand for a more steady system than that, and that that demand preceded the introduction of Mr. Peel's Bill; was there any necessity upon the bank to contract its circulation before the end of the war?—I do not know what obligations the bank was under; what circumstances induced the bank to contract their circulation.

16929. No obligation founded upon the necessity of providing for cash payments could exist prior to the close of the war?—No, I apprehend not; but there may have arisen other causes of which I can know nothing whatever, by which the bank might be called upon to contract their issues or increase their issues; but I am now speaking, as I have been speaking the greater part of the day, when reference has been made to these points, from recollection, and recollection only, not having attended to these points lately myself; but, if I recollect rightly, there was an imputation very often sent forth to the public, at least that the bank had increased or contracted their issues very capriciously at particular times to favour particular individuals.

16930. Then those contractions which preceded that Act produced no universal operation on the price of commodities and value of money?—I can form no opinion at all upon that subject; I suppose every contraction of currency, or every abundant issue of the currency would produce a proportionate effect, and the effect that would be produced would be greater or less according as the issue was great or the contraction was great.

16931. Then what your lordship meant to say was, that those great contractions and occasional increased issues by the bank, which created the demand for a steadier system, had not began to take place till after the close of the war?—If I recollect right, the bullion committee was established before the end of the war, and that arose very much from a feeling that existed among some people, of the

necessity

necessity of coming to some more fixed standard, I apprehend. I cannot trace exactly to what that feeling was owing; but I should think in all probability to the inconvenience that was felt from the occasional rise and occasional fall in prices, which was attributed, and justly attributed, to the issues and contractions of the currency by the bank; if that was so, that feeling was experienced long before the conclusion of the war.

16932. Was it not doubted at the time whether the bank paper had occasioned any advance in price by its depreciation?—Not only was it doubted, but most lustily denied, whenever it was alleged to be the case; and we all recollect the celebrated motion of Mr. Vansittart, demonstrating that there was no depreciation.

16933. Was not the Committee of 1810 established to ascertain that point, whether prices had or had not advanced at all, in consequence of the Restriction Act?—Very probably; I do not recollect the precise object.

16934. You were asked respecting the situation of a person now holder of part of the public debt, and in what his situation would differ from that of the original creditor; would not the person buying any part of the public debt from the original lender of the money stand precisely in the same situation of right with the person from whom he bought?—That is a question of casuistry that I do not know that I can very well answer; I should think that, considering the statutes as they stand, he might not be considered as exactly standing in the same light; but that is a casuistical question.

16935. Would it not follow that he bought something which the purchaser had not the right to sell?—There is a right under the Act to sell.

16936. Sir *James Graham*.] After your experience of the effects of the variation of money which took place in 1797, and considering the influx of time since the establishment of the present standard, and the condition of the working population, should you see with apprehension or with satisfaction any alteration of the standard of value now?—I should see with apprehension any attempt to alter the standard.

16937. Whatever the evils may have been of the past changes, you would contemplate with apprehension the certain and inevitable evil of a further change?—I conceive that the change of standard at any time is productive of great evil, and particularly if it is not done in the most open and avowed manner; I can conceive a state of things when it may be necessary to effect a change of standard in an open and avowed manner; and I think at the time of the passing of Mr. Peel's Bill, it ought to have been done; but it is a very different thing to do it now.

16938. That opportunity having been lost, and the present standard having now existed for 17 years, you would not think it desirable to make the change which in 1818 you thought desirable?—Certainly not; if any inconvenience arises from the alteration that has taken place in the value of the currency by Mr. Peel's Bill; I conceive that it should be remedied by other measures than by an alteration of the standard.

16939. Can your lordship contemplate any mode of artificially raising prices other than by increasing the amount of issues or changing the standard of value?—No.

16940. It must be in one of those two modes?—I apprehend so; I speak offhand rather.

16941. What would be the effect in your lordship's judgment of a forced issue of paper without any alteration of the standard of value; could such an increase of price arising from that source be maintained?—I apprehend that it would in the first instance occasion an exportation of gold, and that if the issues continued beyond a certain point we should have all the evils over again of a depreciation of currency, and then there would come a panic or some calamity of that sort; however I am not a practical man upon these points, and I cannot speak of the practical effects.

16942. Neither of those sources would appear to you to be expedient, neither a forced issue of paper without an alteration of standard, nor an alteration of standard?—I do not think an alteration of standard would be expedient, a forced issue of paper can be never good.

16943. Then an issue of paper which should be convertible into the precious metals on demand, without an alteration of the standard of value, must lead, if in excess, either to a panic or to a restriction?—Yes, it would lead in the first instance to an exportation of gold I apprehend.

16944. That exportation would either produce a stoppage of the bank or else a restriction?—

The Earl of *Radnor*.

14 June 1836.

restriction?—It must go to a very considerable extent to produce those effects; there would be some calamity undergone before that.

16945. We had some experience of that in 1825?—Yes.

16946. The recurrence of 1825 would be a great national evil?—Undoubtedly, all such convulsions must necessarily produce a great deal of calamity, private distress and public calamity.

16947. Does your lordship think that in the present state of agriculture, with reference to that particular interest, any such risk or any such changes are at this moment necessary?—I do not think that agriculture requires any change of the sort.

16948. The difficulty of the tenant you can well imagine to be great where prices have fallen rapidly to the extent which they have done for the last seven years, and rents have not fallen to a corresponding degree?—Yes.

16949. In those cases you can very well understand the distress of the tenant?—Yes.

16950. Mr. *Attwood.*] When you state that if any measure were now necessary, you would prefer other measures to an alteration of the standard or an increased issue of paper money, will you be so good as to state what those other measures are as being preferable?—The state of things to which I alluded would be that which I confess for some years has been a mooted point with me, whether the country could in the long run thrive at all under such an enormous debt as that which we have in this country; but my opinions have lately been somewhat shaken on this point, both by the great prosperity of the country at the present time, and particularly by the improved state of the agricultural labourers, who were the persons who appeared to me to be suffering most from the consequence of that enormous debt.

16951. Then the measure to which you referred was to some reduction of the debt?—Yes, I prefer that infinitely to an alteration of the standard or to an issue of paper, which would have the effect of diminishing the debt in point of payment of interest in a secret, covert and underhand manner.

16952. You state that your opinion was somewhat shaken as to the necessity of that?—It never amounted to an opinion of the absolute necessity; I think that here is less difficulty than there was some months ago.

16953. Is your lordship understood to express a confident opinion that some measure, such as that, will not be necessary?—I do not mean to say that.

16954. In referring to any measure for the reduction of the public debt, would you carry in your mind a similar rectification of private contracts;—I have never contemplated the mode in which it should be set about with sufficient care to answer that question.

16955. Would your lordship think that justice ought to be the guide in all public measures, and paramount over all policy or expediency?—Justice ought never to be lost sight of, certainly.

16956. You were asked, or it was assumed in a question just put, that the present standard has existed for 17 years, are you aware that the Act of 1819 did not go into full operation at that period?—It went into operation in two years; I think that was the period.

16957. Whatever the date was, it would reduce the existence of the present standard by that number of years?—I believe that it came into full operation in a much shorter time than the Act allowed if I recollect right, but I am speaking from recollection.

16958. But the years 1824 and 1825 abolished the standard of 1819 for a time, as affecting contracts and prices?—The contracts and prices were affected by the re-issue or the continuance of the old issue of 1*l.* notes, but the standard was not by law affected.

16959. Does your lordship recollect when the 1*l.* notes were abolished?—I think in 1826, just at the time of the panic; I do not recollect exactly when it was.

16960. The enhancement of prices which should be produced by a forced issue of paper you would look upon in the same way as the real depreciation of standard in its virtual effect upon contracts?—Yes, it would have the same effect upon contracts.

16961. Therefore if the Government did enhance the price by a forced issue of paper in 1824 and 1825, they did as virtually alter the standard at that time for that period, as though for that period they had altered the metal standard?—I am

not

not aware of the fact at all if it was so; if they did force paper they did attack the standard, it was not altered by the Legislature.

16962. You are aware of the great extent of the advance of prices that took place at that time?—Yes, there was a great rise of prices.

16963. Would you date the introduction of the present standard and the contracts founded upon it after that period?—I apprehend that it was settled in the year 1819 by the statute.

16964. You think that the present standard is very desirable to be maintained; what would be the effect of an expensive war upon that standard?—That is a question which I am wholly unable to answer; I believe that all change of the standard would be a source of great calamity; but if it be done at all it should be done openly and avowedly as a change of standard, and not covertly and by the issue of paper.

16965. Do you think that we should be safe from all danger after two years of an extensive war?—I am totally unable to answer the question what effect a war would have upon the money market.

16966. Mr. *Cayley*.] If the bullion resolutions had been carried into effect in 1810, could the war have been carried on?—I really cannot say.

16967. You have been asked with reference to the pushing out of paper in 1822, do you remember this passage in a celebrated pamphlet on "Corn and Currency," "Lord Londonderry dwells on the extension of the currency of the Bank of England, on April 29, 1822, and the consequent increase of the country bank paper as a principal source of mitigation of the distress, admitting distinctly the contraction of the currency caused by Mr. Peel's Bill to have occasioned the fall in the price of agricultural produce, and in this very speech he gives notice of the introduction of the small note Act." If Lord Londonderry so promoted the increase of the Bank of England paper and of all other paper, and it was followed by the panic of 1825, do you conceive that the Government of that day promoted a large issue in ignorance of the consequence?—I believe so; I believe Lord Londonderry was very ignorant upon these topics.

16968. Would you not state that any person was ignorant of the nature of currency who proposed a large issue of paper, without a proportionate alteration of the standard?—I do not conceive that it was necessary to propose an alteration of the standard because he proposed an issue of currency; if he supposed that it would not affect prices, he showed his ignorance.

16969. If there was a larger issue and a corresponding alteration of the standard, then the rise of price might be permanent?—Yes.

16970. Have you ever known since 1815, in all the variations of the currency that have taken place, any enlargement of the currency without its being accompanied with prosperity whilst it has lasted?—I really do not know; I have only known of the increase of currency by the effect upon prices; I have no other means of knowing of the increase of currency but by that effect; I know, generally speaking, when prices are high, people are apt to say we are in a state of great prosperity.

16971. And that among all producing classes, whether labourers, manufacturers or agriculturists?—Yes, generally, people are very fond of high prices.

16972. Do you think that the producing classes do not understand their own interests, and do not feel when they are most comfortable?—When I had a conversation with a number of labourers, they said they wished corn was much dearer; and I said, I wonder that you should wish that, as you are buyers of corn and not sellers; buyers generally wish the article they purchase to be cheap; I cannot say that those men were cognizant of their interests.

16973. Would it be symptomatic that labourers think they are doing best when their masters are doing well?—Those men were doing very well when they said this; it was a sort of speculative notion; I do not know whether they would hold the same opinion now, for bread has risen, and wages have not risen.

16974. At this time are you not aware that there is a greater issue from the joint stock banks than formerly?—I have understood so.

16975. And that the prosperity may in some degree be attributed to that greater issue?—I do not know; I believe there was a very great prosperity before there was this increase of prices.

16976. In your lordship's opinion, as to the necessity of doing anything for the landed interests at this present moment, is your opinion based upon your belief of the prosperity of agriculture?—I believe agriculture is prosperous at the present moment, and I do not know why the agriculturists want anything done for them

The Earl of *Radnor*.

14 June 1836.

more than any other class of people. I have alluded once or twice since I have been here to the improved state of the labouring poor, the agricultural labourers; their situation, as every body who is conversant with the south-western part of England knows, was very deplorable, and was a matter of great distress, and perplexity and apprehension with every considerate person before the Poor Law Bill was passed; I think their condition has been prodigiously improved since that, and all those fears and apprehensions to which I have referred have been very much done away now.

16977. May not the effect of that Bill have been to drive the labourer out of his parish in consequence of a fear of the workhouse?—I believe very few have been driven; I wish a great many more had been driven out of the parishes than have been driven, for I have found by experience the difficulty in persuading them to go from the country, where there was no employment, to the manufacturing districts, where they would have got good employment.

16978. Was your lordship understood in a previous part of your evidence to state that there was rather a difficulty in getting labourers since the operation of the Poor Law Bill?—I have heard farmers complain of that.

16979. Would that complaint have been made if labourers had not left their parishes?—The fact may be inexplicable, but the fact is so that there used to be labourers lounging about without any employment, and now, without any one of the men having left the place, these men have been all employed in the last six months.

16980. Will not the railroads which are now proceeding have the effect of taking them off the parishes?—I think in those places to which I allude not a single man has gone to work on any railroad.

16981. Do you think that there is a belief in the minds of the farmers that higher prices are to return?—That I do not know, I think it is very possible.

16982. If there be such a belief, would you state that it was a very unfounded belief; and that we could maintain no higher range of prices than upon the average of the last three or four years we have had, except by an alteration of the currency?—If Mr. Attwood and Mr. Cayley were to prevail, I should think we should have a high rate of prices, but I should be very sorry to see it.

16983. Mr. *Heathcote.*] Do you not think that the alteration in the Poor Laws has had an effect in the increase of employment of the labourers?—There is no doubt about it, and it is a most marvellous thing that it is so, but so it is, that where there were men lounging about at the corners of the streets receiving 2*s.* from the parish and doing nothing, these men are now all employed.

16984. Do not you think that that will lead to a more careful cultivation of the land than exists at present?—Yes, it will lead to the improvement of the labourer, and if he is a good labourer he will do his work better than a bad one.

16985. If there is more improvement on the land will it not lead to a great increase in the quantity of corn?—No doubt of it; I believe that a great deal that farmers save in their rates will be laid out upon their land.

16986. And that will increase the stock of corn in England?—Yes.

16987. Mr. *Attwood.*] If your lordship had prevailed in 1815 or Mr. Cayley should prevail now, a higher rate of prices would be established?—If I had prevailed in 1819, there would have been a higher rate of price, which I thought was an act of justice then, and still think was an act of justice then.

16988. Did your lordship support the alteration of the standard in 1823?—No.

16989. Not a revision of the standard?—What I proposed was an equitable adjustment of contracts.

16990. You have stated that the Act of 1819 was called for by the assumed necessity of preventing the contraction at one time and then extension at another time of the paper of the Bank of England, operating upon prices to raise them or reduce them?—I was misunderstood if I was understood to say that it was called for by it; there was a general feeling as far as I recollect that it was advisable to return to cash payments, and I believe that feeling was very much produced by the continual change of prices, owing to the increase and the contraction of the issues of the bank. There were other causes operating to the same effect. The increase of forgery had a great effect in inducing the wish to return to cash payments.

16991. Does it follow from what you have stated of the operation of the Act in the years 1823, 1824 and 1825, that the Act failed in giving a fixity to the issues and prices?—It certainly did to a certain extent, for the pressure was felt, and then people shrunk from this pressure, and then the measure itself was counteracted;

new measures were brought in, which counteracted the original measure, to meet that pressure; then came the panic, and then the consequences of it.

16992. Those measures are what you describe as secret, covert and underhand tampering with the currency?—Any measures of the issue of paper with a view of producing the effect of diminishing the burden of taxation, or of diminishing the amount of fixed payments that was made by one person to another, I do conceive to be in that respect tantamount to the change of standard, and to be a secret, covert underhand way of doing it.

16993. Would any individual, admitting the fact that the currency was tampered with in the years 1822, 1823, 1824 and 1825, and effecting the depreciation; could any individual entertaining that opinion, now, affirm consistently that the present standard has been in operation 17 years?—It has been legally in operation 17 years; I made no such admission.

16994. It would be true to the letter?—Certainly, it would be true to the letter.

16995. Sir *James Graham*.] Since the passing of the Small Note Act there can be no doubt that the statute has been in full and undisputed operation?—Since the extinction of the small notes, certainly.

16996. What is the date of that?—That was in 1829, I believe.

16997. In your lordship's opinion, does the undisputed full operation of the standard for seven years constitute protection?—There is a charm about the number seven.

16998. Mr. *Wodehouse*.] Is the Committee to understand that your lordship is satisfied that the present standard of gold is, under all the circumstances in which the country is placed, the surest basis of national prosperity, and the best measure of value, under all the various exigencies which may arise to this state of society?—That is a very difficult and complicated question, which I will not take upon myself to answer. I myself before stated that it seemed to me to be a mistake, having taken a gold standard instead of a silver one; and if for no other reason, for this, that in all other countries there is a silver standard, and in this country only a gold one; in all probability the majority is right, and the minority in the wrong; and therefore I cannot help thinking that the silver standard would be better than a gold one; but I have understood that the alteration of the standard from gold to silver would have the effect of causing a depreciation of money, which I deprecate. If a silver standard were adopted, and if, as I understand it would interfere with the standard, the coin must be altered in proportion to the difference of the value of the two metals.

16999. Mr. *Sanford*.] Your lordship thought in 1823 or 1824, that the equitable adjustment of contracts would be advisable?—I did.

17000. That was in consequence of the alteration of the currency?—Yes.

17001. Supposing at the present period there was an alteration of the standard, would your lordship think that an equitable adjustment would become necessary again?—Yes, if there was an alteration of the standard, beyond doubt.

17002. But at the present moment you do not conceive it advisable to have an adjustment?—I think it is impossible.

The Right Honourable Lord *Ashburton*, attending by permission of the House of Lords, Examined.

17003. Mr. *Cayley*.] YOUR lordship has made extensive inquiries into the nature and operation of money?—I certainly have attended to it more in former years than lately; but it is a subject that I have considered a good deal.

17004. Will you explain to the Committee, if you please, the laws upon which prices are founded?—Price is a certain portion of that metal or other article which is established by law as the medium of value. I do not know any other definition, and of course must be regulated by the proportions, both of the thing measured, and the thing with which the measure is made; or, in other words, the price is regulated by the demand and supply of the article to be measured, and also of the value of the article of which the measure is made; taking any one article, taking wheat, for instance, it would be regulated first of all by the supply and demand for wheat itself, and then again it will be affected by the cost of the precious metals, or the cost of those metals in which it is measured.

17005. Then would your lordship state, that an alteration of price depended upon an alteration in the quantity of the commodity, or in the quantity of the

The Rt. hon. Lord *Ashburton*.

14 June 1836.

measure of value, *i. e.* in other words, the circulating medium?—It is determined by both, by a mixed combination of both.

17006. Are you aware that a pretty uniform rate of prices, taking wheat as the standard, prevailed in this country for a long period of time antecedent to the Bank Restriction Act of 1797?—I have not the facts with respect to prices well in my recollection, not having looked to the subject carefully very lately; but I rather believe that it had been the case, and that the price of wheat was rather steady for many years antecedent to that period. I think so; but I speak from imperfect recollection.

17007. According to the best of your lordship's recollection, did it range about 40*s.* a quarter for wheat?—I can be no authority on this subject, not having looked at the papers; but I should say, from my own recollection, higher than that; if I were to guess, I should say 50*s.*; but I have no recollection, and if the Committee wish to have perfect information upon that subject they would take it from authentic sources.

17008. Was that for a short period antecedent to the Bank Restriction Act, or for a long period?—I really cannot speak with confidence upon the subject, not having the papers before me.

17009. Are you aware of any considerable alteration of prices which took place subsequently to the Bank Restriction Act of 1797?—I do not recollect precisely the fluctuation of prices; but I do not believe the Restriction Act of 1797 had for a time any very material effect, even upon the value of money. I think for a year or two after 1797 there was very little alteration in the value of money consequent upon the suspension of cash payments by the bank.

17010. May it not be one of the first symptoms of depreciation of money, if the depreciation be by paper money, that the paper at first drags the gold down, and that the gold ultimately emancipates itself from its connexion with the paper?—Depreciation is variously produced, according to circumstances at the time. Applying the question to our own particular situation, we were just in the heat of an extremely expensive war, and the value of money and the state of the standard were materially affected by the more or less of demand for expenditure abroad. As far as I recollect the original suspension of cash payments, the immediate cause of the suspension was foreign subsidies and foreign expenditure, and of course the more or less of the depreciation which followed upon it, must have depended upon the demand from abroad upon that portion of money which it was beyond the ordinary means of commerce to meet.

17011. Did it not also depend upon the discretion of the Bank of England in the amount of their issues?—Certainly.

17012. Was not the effect of the Bank Restriction Act to restrain the Bank of England from the necessity of converting their notes into gold?—Certainly.

17013. Would not that give them both the facility and the disposition to increase their notes?—It certainly gave them the facility, as far as my own recollection goes, and I was a director of the bank at that time. I believe the Bank acted quite honestly in the issues of their paper; I do not mean that they may always have been guided by perfect wisdom on the subject, but there was never, as is commonly supposed, a disposition on the part of the bank to put out paper for the purpose of profit; on the contrary, the bank was rather embarrassed with the amount of its profit at the time; I think I can fairly say, that a narrow view of pecuniary interest was no part of their inducement to put out paper; the bank undoubtedly yielded occasionally, perhaps more than in prudence they ought to the demands of the minister of the day, and when, as was constantly the case during the war, a remonstrance came from Government that the public service would be very much impeded if additional supplies were not given, very likely the bank yielded upon those remonstrances, and others of that description, beyond what in prudence should have been done; but I am quite sure that the bank never regulated their emission of paper upon the speculation of increasing their own profits.

17014. But without any reference to the conduct of the Bank of England, to which no discredit appears to be attached, would you say that the effect of the Bank of England yielding to the pressure of the Government for public supplies was to increase the circulation of their notes?—Yes, I think so.

17015. In fact, did not a very large increase of their notes take place between 1797 and the close of the war?—Certainly.

17016. Do you attribute any considerable rise in the prices that took place during

during the war to the increase of the Bank of England issues and the country bank issues?—Certainly.

17017. To what extent should you say the prices of the war were attributable to the increased circulating medium of paper?—It is difficult to determine what causes have been operating at different times on the articles themselves, distinct from the causes that were operating upon the measure of value; we were for a great portion of the time excluded from the Continent, consequently at certain periods there was an obstruction to the importation of agricultural or other produce, so that the articles of commerce were constantly affected by political causes, arising out of the state of the war, and it is difficult to say at this time, referring to any one particular period, to what extent that was affected by the alteration of money, or to what extent by the other causes that I have named.

17018. If prices were affected in any degree in consequence of the exclusion of certain articles from the Continent, would there not have been a fall in the price of those articles by their exclusion from the market to which they were in the habit of going?—Undoubtedly, the cessation of demand must have distressed them.

17019. Was there any such general adversity, for any continued period during the war, among the producers of any class of commodities which had usually sought the foreign market?—I cannot at present speak with any certainty as to whether there was or was not: but as it applies to agricultural produce, a state of war, when armies are in motion, always produces a high price of transportable food; you will invariably find, that if war breaks out on the Continent, and armies are put in motion, the transportable supplies are driven into the great corn markets, and consequently a rise takes place out of proportion to what you would suppose the consumption of those armies; whether this arises from the great waste by armies or from other causes, I have invariably observed that war creates a demand for transportable food, and consequently it may very likely have been the case, that though we were not able to derive our usual supplies from the Baltic, yet that other causes may have tended to keep up the prices of those articles; but at the same time I speak without having looked to the subject, and only from the general principles which operate.

17020. Are you aware that in all the wars of the last century our prices fell during the war and rose again on the return of peace?—I am not aware that that has been the case.

17021. If that be the fact, would it not rather tend to show that war does not produce, as a necessary consequence, any increase of prices?—Our wars, and the continental wars operate differently; our wars, with the exception of the last, have been generally maritime wars, and even in the last war, when we had our armies in different parts of the world, they had little or no supply of food from this country. Maritime wars affected the provision markets of Ireland very largely, and may consequently have affected the quantity of land kept in pasture there; but generally speaking our wars are very different in their operation upon the corn market from what is produced by the movement of large armies on the Continent.

17022. Would you state that the effect of war had been to produce a higher range of prices in France?—I should think so upon general principles. It should however be considered that the armies of France were out of France and fed elsewhere.

17023. Would not the same observation apply to the armies of this country which did not receive their supplies from this country?—Our large armies in the Peninsula were principally supplied from America and did produce in America very high prices in corn and flour.

17024. Then if there was no increased demand, or but a small increased demand for agricultural produce to supply our armies in the Peninsula, how could war be said to have had any great effect upon the prices of this country, speaking abstractedly of war?—I am not aware that it does with the single exception of the supply of our fleets; what I state is that the great armies that are in motion, produce either from waste or from their consumption a great demand of food from the different markets in which it is bought. You will find that if the French or Russian or German troops were put in motion, the first thing they do is to go to Dantzic and the different corn markets in the Baltic and lay in their supplies; the consequence of which is that the prices advance in these great markets, and are followed by those in the smaller ones.

17025. If there be a great extra demand for corn in America or Dantzic, that

The Rt. hon. Lord *Ashburton*.

14 June 1836.

increased demand will operate upon price, but if there be no increased demand for articles in England how should the war produce such a rise in prices?—I do not think that I have said that the advance in England of the prices of corn was owing to the fact of the war, otherwise than as war may at some periods have stopped the supply from other countries. The calculation has been until lately that our produce of corn was short of our consumption; at that time we had not the quantity from Ireland that we have recently had, and a portion came from the Continent; that supply being occasionally obstructed, or the risk of insurance, freight and charges being increased, an increase of price may in this way be occasioned by the war; but I am speaking on general principles, and have not looked into figures to see to what extent that was the case during the war.

17026. Would not the fact that there were the greatest number of inclosure Acts passed between 1797 and 1814, bringing into cultivation a great quantity of land, tend to compensate for any shutting out of the supply from Ireland, or for such a quantity as we were in the habit of deriving from abroad?—It must to a certain extent have had an effect, but I think until very lately the estimate still was that we required a supply from abroad in years of average production. I think even the last Committee of the House of Commons, upon which I sat, reported that opinion, though perhaps then it was more than doubtful whether we were right. It was certainly in the Committee that Mr. Huskisson presided over, stated at one-twelfth of the production of the year. It was supposed that our consumption exceeded our supply in average years to the extent of one month out of the twelve; I rather believe that they repeated that opinion in the report of the last Committee; I think it was very doubtful whether we were right then; I am quite sure we are not right now.

17027. Then with respect to the prices that prevailed during the war, from 1797 to 1814, should you state that it was the larger quantity that the Bank of England issued that was the main cause of the rise of prices during that period?—I should think the issues of paper can hardly be said to have been the main cause; if you look to what those prices were, that they were so very irregular, running from 60 and 70 up to 120, it becomes evident that the great variations were variations consequent upon the derangement of the supply; and although the state of the currency must have had some effect, it is evident from the state of the prices that they must have been very much operated upon by other causes; it is quite impossible at this distance of time to say to what extent one or the other may have operated.

17028. If there was a scarcity of the commodity, accompanied by great plenty of the medium in which it was measured, would not both together tend to produce a greater rise of prices than if one cause only had been in operation?—Certainly, if the fact be so that you require a portion of your supply from abroad, and that to get that supply you must pay in a depreciated currency. Supposing it, for instance, to come from France, which it did not, but making the supposition as an illustration, and your pound sterling commanded only 17 francs in foreign money, as it did at those periods of the war, instead of the present rate of 26 francs; it is quite clear that the money value of the supply, whatever it was, must to that extent have been affected by the alteration in the value of money.

17029. Do you think that the price of gold was a proper test of the rate of the depreciation of the paper during the war?—The price of gold is the more immediate test of what might be called the depreciation, because I know of no other sense to give to the word depreciation, than the difference between what is promised to be given, and that which would be the value of the thing actually received; but if I am to say whether I think it is the measure of the alteration of the value of money commonly so called, then I do not think it is. There was not only a depreciation in the paper as compared with the metal, but the metal and the paper united to form money was further depreciated.

17030. Would you hold the prices of commodities generally for a continued period of 10 or 15 years as a better test of the depreciation than the price of gold alone?—If you could strike the average between all commodities, I should say decidedly it would be; but in attempting to do so, you are dealing with a period when the greatest possible derangement in commodities took place, from the fact of the war in which we were engaged, therefore it is very difficult to apply the test; but if you could really get fairly at this test, and divest it of any other causes which might affect it, it would be the fairer mode of estimating the difference of the value of money at the time.

17031. Would any derangement in the price of agricultural produce, affected by seasons, have any effect upon the prices of other commodities?—Not materially; but

but inasmuch as the price of labour is affected by the price of food, and that other commodities are affected by the price of labour, in that manner it has its effect upon other commodities.

17032. Where a scarcity of food produces a rise in the price of labour, will not that rather tend to check the demand for manufactured articles produced by that high price of labour?—Surely, if the high price is not a high price really, but a merely nominal high price, in consequence of the depreciation of money, then it can have little effect in checking the demand, if it is a foreign demand. If the foreigner, supposing him to be a Frenchman, pays 17 livres for a pound sterling, instead of 26, then he can pay a proportionately higher price in the pound sterling for the commodities he derives from England, but in that case the high price is merely nominal to him, and not real.

17033. If there was a real high price in consequence of scarcity, or in consequence of exclusion or of prohibition, such high price would tend to check consumption; but did there appear to be any check to consumption during the war?—I do not think that there was.

17034. Would not that be rather symptomatic, if at the time that the price of one commodity rose other commodities rose also, that the parties who were to sell, and the parties who were to buy, were both improved in their condition?—I think the whole of our condition during the war was too artificial to draw much sober conclusions as applicable to quiet times. The operation of borrowing and squandering with the taxes, sixty, seventy, eighty, I believe in the last year something like one hundred millions in the year, produced such a derangement of the value of all things, that it is very difficult to draw any conclusions from it.

17035. Was not the mode in which all that squandering and expenditure was exhibited, an increase, generally speaking, of paper issues?—It was accompanied generally with an increase of paper.

17036. And a rise of prices accompanied the issues of paper?—Yes; a nominal rise of prices.

17037. In your opinion, what caused the fall of prices at the conclusion of the war?—The fall of prices at the conclusion of the war was produced first of all by the doing away with all obstructions to communication with the other parts of the world where prices were more moderate. All those obstructions arising from war were suddenly done away with, and you were open to every market to full communication with all other parts of the world. That and the cessation of the sums of money squandered during the war, and further, the alteration of your standard; all these were causes that operated together, and I think the public attach much too little importance to the fact of the money squandered in the time of the war. Now I should say, for instance, in the present year, that a great proportion of that swelling prosperity, and the disposition to go into every species of adventure, is a good deal produced by the 10 or 15 millions which you distributed among the West Indians. I think a considerable proportion of it is owing to this circumstance; it is impossible to analize it, and to say to what degree, but you have created from 10 to 15 millions of new money or new values; you have borrowed the money and you have scattered it, and you have for the year produced part of that state of things which I describe as having been the result of the operations of the war when these great loans and squanderings took place. To a certain extent the symptoms are the same; but when you come to analize the question of prices, and to determine what has arisen from one particular operation and what from another, it appears to me at this distance of time to escape any certain analysis.

17038. Were the loans during the war chiefly payable in this country?—Yes, entirely; the loans of this country were payable in this country.

17039. The mode in which they were exhibited was increase of paper?—They were accompanied undoubtedly in the increase of paper, but not always a regular increase.

17040. Would you state that the effect of the loan to the West India proprietors which was paid last year had exhibited itself rather in speculations, such as railroad shares, and all the other speculations that we have seen so rife within the last few months? I think it has much contributed to it, that it has left people with money that they do not know what to do with. I have heard of several persons getting so many thousand pounds coming from this West Indian Compensation Fund, and looking about in what manner they could employ it.

17041. And not having an opportunity of investing that money in any of the

The Rt. hon. Lord *Ashburton*.

14 June 1836.

ordinary channels of investment, they have gone to such speculations as railroads?—I think so; I would not be supposed to ascribe it entirely to the operation of the West Indian loan, but I state the circumstance as an illustration of what I stated before, of the financial operations of the last war.

17042. Have you heard of increased issues from the joint stock banks within the last year or eighteen months?—Yes.

17043. When you state that one cause of the fall in prices was the opening of the general market of Europe at the close of the war, would you be understood to say that the fall in price was general, and took place among manufactured commodities as well as agriculture?—I think there was a general fall of prices in everything, as well in the raw materials of manufacture as the articles manufactured themselves. I think there was hardly an article in which it did not show itself.

17044. If during the war we were manufacturing any commodity which was excluded from the general market, would not the natural tendency of that have been to produce a fall in the price of that commodity?—Yes.

17045. Did such fall of price take place during the war in consequence of any check to the exportation of our manufactured produce?—Undoubtedly, I think so; the price of manufactures fell: take for instance the cotton manufacturers; they are first of all affected by the rate at which you can get the raw material. If, for instance, you were at war with America, there was a difficulty in getting the raw material, then the price was affected by that circumstance. The mere difference of freights and of insurance, and the difference of the facility of intercourse with those countries from which the raw material comes, make a difference in the price of it, and that difference affects the price at which you can furnish the manufactured article; but on the other hand is to be set the fact, that the stocks of the manufacturer during the time that he was excluded from the markets went on increasing until the opening of the markets enabled him to reduce his stock and to sell at improved prices; so that there are causes on both sides; there are causes which enable him to manufacture cheap; there are other causes that enable him to increase his market to sell cheaper.

17046. If there was an exclusion from the foreign markets during the major part of the war, would not the exclusion of stocks from a foreign country have an effect during the period of the war to lower the prices, unaccompanied by any other circumstance?—Surely *cæteris paribus* it would.

17047. But such fall in the prices did not take place, and therefore we may presume that other circumstances were in operation which affected prices?—I really cannot say whether it did or did not; I have not now any recollection of the prices at particular periods.

17048. If, after the cessation of the war, those manufactures were no longer excluded, but again found a mart upon the Continent, would not the natural consequence be, unaccompanied by other circumstances, that those articles would rise in price?—Certainly.

17049. Did that rise of price take place at the cessation of the war?—I cannot speak to the exact prices, although the circumstances stated would occasion the rise of price; there may have been other circumstances to counteract the rise of prices.

17050. Was there such a circumstance in the withdrawing of a considerable quantity of the Bank of England issues in 1815 and 1816, in anticipation of a resumption of cash payments?—I cannot speak as to particular years, for the facts connected with it are very much gone out of my recollection. If it is meant to inquire whether at that period, the preparation for the alteration of the circulating medium, and subsequently the real alteration of the circulating medium, had its effect on those prices, it undoubtedly had; at one time the preparation, at another time the real act, and not precisely the passing of what is called Mr. Peel's Bill but the whole progress from the unrestrained issue of paper to the present gold medium of circulation, had its effect at different periods, according as it was put in operation at those different periods; but I cannot now charge my recollection at present how the operation of this change worked in particular years.

17051. Do you remember an interval between the close of the war and the actual passing of Peel's Bill, when there was a recurrence to a higher general rate of prices accompanied by considerable prosperity during 1817 and 1818?—I think there was; but my recollection is not quite accurate.

17052. Do you remember that that prosperity was general among all classes; that

that higher range of prices was general among all products, and that it was accompanied by general satisfaction?—I have no recollection of the particular years, but I know that there were great fluctuations; there were some years in which there was considerable show of prosperity, and that gave rise to overtrading. There was throughout a very unsettled state of things; the war itself left an extremely unsettled state of things, both as to the proportion of capitals applicable to active pursuits, and then as to the operations in reverting from the paper to the metallic standard; there was an unsettled state of things at different periods, which at this remote time I really am not able to recollect perfectly.

17053. Were you upon the Committee of 1819, which sat previously to Mr. Peel's Bill passing?—I believe I was.

17054. Do you remember Mr. Harman, who was then deputy-governor or a director of the Bank of England, stating that Government, in consequence of the distress of 1815 and 1816, did, in conjunction with the Bank of England, take steps to produce a larger circulation, which larger circulation came into operation in 1817 and 1818, and that it had the effect of removing the distress?—I do not remember precisely what Mr. Harman's evidence was; if he states it so, I dare say it was so, but I know that the bank at that period was constantly interfered with; that if Government thought there was any distress or difficulty, or if the country interest pressed upon Government, or any other interest pressed upon Government, the minister of the day relieved himself by laying blame on the bank. The bank was the scape-goat of any interest in the country that for the time happened to be in any state of distress: I do not mean to say that sometimes the bank may not have been sometimes in the wrong, but it was an easy escape for the different interests relieving themselves by throwing their difficulties upon the bank.

17055. Could the bank relieve them in any other mode than by increasing their issues?—Sometimes the relief might undoubtedly be produced by increasing the issues; but no real, useful, substantial relief could be given by the bank regulating its issues otherwise than according to the real interests of the country. I think the mistake that the bank made was in listening too much to the Government of the day and to their notions, that they were by expanding or contracting their issues to produce certain effects upon the money market. I think they were too much interfered with.

17056. Do you remember during the years 1817 and 1818, the years of the prosperity described by Mr. Harman, that prices ranged then very nearly upon a par with the prices of the war?—I do not recollect.

17057. If they ranged very nearly upon a par with the prices of the war, could the loans at that period be said to have had any effect in producing that state of prices?—I really do not know how the case stood, or what may have been the causes in those years of any particular state of prices: I know that there were great fluctuations.

17058. If there was a great increase of price in consequence of a considerable increase of the circulating medium, during a time of peace, might it not be fairly inferred, that the prices of the war were to be attributable rather to the circulating medium than to a state of war?—I do not think myself that the issues of the Bank of England had so immediate an effect upon prices as is generally supposed; I do not mean to say that it has not an effect, and that any very great issue or any great reduction of issue would not have an effect, but I think the immediate effect of the bank issues is overrated; but at the same time, that the bank must necessarily be governed by that duty which was imposed upon them the moment they were to pay in specie of being ready to pay when called upon, or when the duty was not imposed upon them by positive law, there was an expectation on the part of the public that the war being over, they were to proceed to put themselves into a state to meet payments in specie, because it should be recollected, that immediately upon the close of the war the bank proceeded, and sometimes proceeded perhaps too rapidly, in putting themselves into a state of paying in specie.

17059. Though the effect of the issues of the Bank of England may not be immediate upon prices, will they not ultimately reach prices?—I do not know that they will; they have an effect; but if the Bank of England keep their issues within that limit which enables them to maintain their payments in specie, of course the foreign exchanges cannot be much affected by their issues, and I should not think the general prices could be materially affected.

17060. Speaking of the period before the resumption of cash payments, and alluding

The Rt. hon. Lord *Ashburton.*

14 June 1836.

luding to the period of 1817 and 1818, before the Bill of 1819 came into operation, would not the effect of any considerable increase of the issues of the Bank of England equal to three or four millions be to have a very considerable effect upon the prices?—If they made their issues to an extent to disenable them from making their payments in specie, undoubtedly it would have a very considerable effect; but if they confined themselves within that line of prudence, it would have an effect certainly, but I do not think very considerable.

17061. At the period alluded to there was a postponement of the resumption of cash payments in 1817 and 1818?—Yes.

17062. Therefore that observation would scarcely apply to that particular period?—Yes; but as I mentioned before, if my recollection does not deceive me, the bank was all along looking to the resumption of cash payments; the bank did not wait for the legislative enactment to make them pay in specie; they felt it their duty to make preparation to meet it; it was a matter of pride with them to show that they could do it without being forced to do it by Parliament; they did it too hastily, and relaxed again when that was pointed out to them, but at the period of the cessation of the war they had always that duty before their eyes, and were acting in execution of it.

17063. They were acting in what they conceived to be the execution of their duty when they prepared for a return to cash payments in 1815?—Yes.

17064. Did not the Legislature ultimately postpone it till 1818?—Yes.

17065. And again ultimately postpone it till 1819?—I think they did; there was a short period of Mr. Ricardo's experiment of paying in ingots, which the Committee may recollect; but in considering all that period I think the mistake made is in looking to the state of the law, and not looking at the practical conduct of the bank; now, for instance, although the Bank Restriction Act was passed in 1797, there was little or no depreciation of the paper in parts of 1798 or 1799; in 1798 Parliament passed a law to prevent silver being brought to the Mint: the people were bringing silver to the Mint to be coined in 1798, although the bank stopped payment by Act of Parliament. I mention this to show that you must not look to the mere state of the law, but to the facts of the case at the time.

17066. When it is stated that Mr. Peel's Bill of 1819 produced a great fall of prices, you would take into your contemplation and consideration the preparations made for it, and the subsequent carrying of it into effect?—I do not admit that Mr. Peel's Bill produced a fall of prices; the fall of prices undoubtedly was promoted by the fact of its being the intention of Parliament to return in some form or other to specie payments, but I say that the bank was acting upon that before, and that the mere period of the passing of the Bill in 1819 should not be taken as the period of actual operation.

17067. It was not the particular period of 1819 alone that is to be kept in view, when the change in the value of money is considered; but we must look back to the close of the war when the preparation for cash payments commenced; and the subsequent consequences of the Bill of 1819 must also be kept in view?—Yes.

17068. Was not the necessary consequence of the preparations of the bank for return to cash payments, and the drawing in of their issues to prepare for it, to produce a fall in the price of gold?—Surely.

17069. Then when by their own measures they had produced a fall in the price of gold in 1819 to somewhat about four or five per cent. difference between the paper and the gold, do you think that that was any fair test of the previous rate of depreciation of the paper?—I do not think that it is any test of the alteration of the value of money, but I think it is a test of the depreciation of paper, because, as I have already said, I know of no other test of the depreciation of paper than the relative value of what it passes for, and that which it promises to pay; there is no other test; but if I am asked as to the alteration in the value of money it is a very different thing; for instance, there were other circumstances connected with that passage from paper money to specie, which produced great effect, which was that at the close of the war; one half of Europe was doing exactly the same thing; the greater portion of Europe, all the Austrian dominions were returning from a state of paper circulation to a state of specie; Russia was returning to specie at the same time; America, though her departure from a metallic circulation were temporary or partial, was in the same course of change. These operations were in progress while this country required also thirty or forty millions of gold, or whatever the

the amount might be; in all parts of Europe the same operation was going on. Now, supposing a certain sum of specie, 100 millions of gold for instance, to be the sum required for the circulation of Europe, and to that 100 millions of gold, 100 million of paper is superadded; it is quite clear that there is first of all depreciation between gold and paper, by the 100 being made 200, and the whole amount of money is brought down in value even by the system of the legitimate paper system. In this country, if legitimately to 50 millions or to 40 millions of gold, you can add the 40 millions of paper payable on demand, you make that paper perform the functions of specie to an extent, and to that extent it produces the same effect as if you discover new mines, and increase the quantity of gold; the mere depreciation or difference of value between paper and gold is therefore no criterion of the difference of the value of money as towards commodities, the things which they conjointly measure; that, in my opinion, was the mistake in the discussion, which Mr. Ricardo seemed to make; he looked at the difference between gold and paper, and he always maintained that that was the only alteration that was made in the value of money, and that it was the measure of the depreciation, because you have no other mode of measuring it; but although it was strictly the measure of depreciation of paper, it was not the measure of the altered value of money.

17070. Then, when it was said that four or five per cent. was the difference between paper and gold at the particular period of 1819, was that a fair criterion of the fall in prices that might be expected in consequence of a return to cash payments?—I think it was not.

17071. What would you consider to have been the alteration of the value of money operating on the prices of commodities?—It is very difficult to say; the difference cannot be accurately measured. Mr. Henry Thornton's opinion is the most satisfactory to my mind on that subject; he valued it, I believe, at about 30 per cent.

17072. At what date?—I think it was in 1811, in the debate upon the Report of the Bullion Committee.

17073. Does your lordship remember having made the following quotation in 1830, from Mr. Thornton's speech which makes the preciation much higher than that, "The prosperity we experienced during the war was owing to an opposite cause." It is worth while to recur to that, and to state, that the description given of its prosperity by Mr. Thornton in the debate on the Bullion Report in 1811, is the very converse of the present condition of the country. Money, it should be remembered, was then depreciated, and there was an universal rise of prices. Mr. H. Thornton said on that occasion,—"There has been a continual fall in the value of money since the war; estimated by some at 60 or 70 per cent., and certainly it is not less than 40 or 50 per cent." ?—I doubt its correctness.

17074. Sir *James Graham*.] Does not your lordship remember in 1819 expressing your opinion that at that time the alteration of the value ranged from 25 or 30 per cent. when Mr. Ricardo contended that it was only three-and-a-half?—I perfectly recollect giving that opinion; and as far as my own recollections go, I should still adhere to that; I should say that it is rather understated than over; I should think that Mr. Thornton having valued it, if I am not mistaken, at 30 in the year 1811, the depreciation had rather a tendency afterwards to increase; if I was to reconsider that opinion of my own, I should think it ought to be stated rather above 30 than under. If you look at Mr. Thornton's opinion, you see a man weighing very candidly in his own mind what the calculation was; and he evidently states, and what is evident in the answers I have given, that the subject is rather vague, not reducible to any positive proof; but he says, "I do not pretend to draw any distinction between gold and paper; but what is commonly called *money* is depreciated to that extent;" and then he goes on to show, how any person who happened to have property or commodities of any kind and had engagements, might find himself every day in a sort of fictitious prosperity, that his goods were worth so much more than his engagements, and at the end of the year he was making profit. He gives an account according to his own view of the thing, extremely expressive of the actual course of things; I do not know any account any where that gives so good an explanation of the practical working of the alteration in the value of money.

Mercurii, 15° *die Junii*, 1836.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Shaw Lefevre.	Mr. Heathcote.
Mr. Sanford.	The O'Conor Don.
Lord Viscount Howick.	Mr. Wodehouse.
Mr. Robert Clive.	Mr. William Miles.
Mr. Cayley.	Sir Robert Price.

MR. SHAW LEFEVRE, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *Rogers Ruding*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *R. Ruding.*

15 June 1836.

17075. *Chairman.*] YOU are extensively engaged in the corn trade?—Yes, I have been engaged for many years as a corn-factor.

17076. Are you principally concerned in the import trade?—Yes.

17077. Have you ever considered what has been the effect of the corn laws of 1828 upon the corn trade?—Yes, I have. I think they tend entirely to prevent our having a supply from abroad, except in cases of actual scarcity.

17078. Do you think that the tendency of those laws has been to keep a steady price, except under years of import?—No, very far from it; because, at the time of importation, we necessarily have high prices; and immediately after importation has taken place, it alarms the agriculturists, who generally send a large portion of their corn immediately to market, and occasion a reaction. We have then low prices; and in the event of good harvests, as was seen lately, very low prices indeed.

17079. Have you had much dealings in British corn for the last three years?—Very considerable.

17080. Should you say, generally speaking, that the persons engaged in the corn trade were driven out of the English market to the foreign market for their supplies, in consequence of the gambling system which has been entailed by the present corn law?—No, I cannot say that they are driven out of the English market.

17081. You do not think that there is less speculation in British corn, in consequence of the present corn laws?—I do not think there is.

17082. Not in the years of import?—In the years of import, of course there would be; but at the present moment, the present corn laws are in favour of speculation in British corn, because, if purchased now, a considerable rise must take place before a foreign importation could come into competition with it, and a handsome profit realized, provided Parliament do not make any alteration in the corn laws, when corn is rising in price.

17083. Has there been an inducement to purchase British corn, for the last two or three years, with a falling market?—There has been a fair inducement. The capitalists, who have viewed the average prices as below par, might safely enter into speculation; and wherever it has been done, it must have been attended with large profit.

17084. Are you aware at what rate of duty the great amount of corn which was entered for home consumption in the years 1828, 1829, 1830 and 1831 was introduced?—They were entered at various duties, sometimes at 1*s.* a quarter; and at all the different rates, varying as high even occasionally as 24*s.* 8*d.* a quarter.

17085. Was the great proportion of the corn entered in those years, for home consumption, entered at the low duty of 1*s.*?—A great proportion was. All the stock remaining in granary at the time of the opening of the ports at that duty.

17086. Do you remember, in the year 1830, large importations, equal in fact to 1,072,582 quarters of corn, being admitted at the low duty of 2*s.* 8*d.*?—There was a large importation of wheat in 1830. I cannot say exactly whether that quantity was entered at a duty of 2*s.* 8*d.* a quarter. On the 20th of August, the duty on wheat fell to 2*s.* 8*d.* a quarter, and remained so until the 10th

10th September. When it rose, all that was here between those periods was entered at that duty.

17087. Supposing it to be the fact that so large a quantity of corn was entered for home consumption at that particular period of the year, between August and September, at that low rate of duty, do you think that the present system of corn laws affords the farmer sufficient protection?—Yes, I do, upon the ground that the importation has never equalled more than one month's consumption of the country. The present corn laws cannot give the farmer high prices in over productive seasons, though they at such times operate as a prohibition to foreign importation, and thus protect the farmer until importations are required in times of scarcity. The importations are nothing compared with the consumption of the country, and low prices are the effect of over production.

17088. Do you think the large quantity of corn that was introduced in these four years, to which allusion has been made, had any effect in depressing the price of corn for the last three years?—No, I should say not.

17089. You think that no part of that supply remained in warehouse beyond the years 1831 or 1832?—I should think scarcely any of that which was free.

17090. Then is it your opinion that the corn laws are at present upon a satisfactory system?—No.

17091. What system would you prefer?—I should propose a lower scale of duties by which, if the present prices are remunerating to the agriculturist (of which I am no judge), the Committee will see the agriculturist would be protected and the consumer be certain of a supply from abroad when needed at much lower prices than under the existing corn laws. This is the plan I propose:

[*The Witness delivered in the same, which was read as follows.*]

Operation at the present averages for the last six weeks, of a duty of 10*s.* per quarter on corn, at the average prices stated below. The duty to increase and decrease 2*s.* per quarter for every rise and fall of 1*s.* per quarter in the averages of the six weeks below the pivot prices of all corn at which the 10*s.* per quarter duty is proposed, and only 1*s.* per quarter for every rise and fall of 1*s.* per quarter above those pivot prices.

Wheat, at average - - 50*s.*, would be duty free at 61*s.*
Rye, barley and Indian corn 30 - - - - - 41
Peas and beans - - - 33 - - - - - 44
Oats - - - - - 23 - - - - - 31

Present duty: wheat, 37*s.* 8*d.*; barley, 13*s.* 10*d.*; Rye, 19*s.* 9*d.*; peas, 9*s.* 6*d.*; beans, 12*s.* 6*d.*

	WHEAT.		BARLEY.	RYE.	PEAS.	BEANS.
	Red.	White.				
	Shillings.	*Shillings.*	*Shillings.*	*Shillings.*	*Shillings.*	*Shillings.*
Cost abroad -	28	35	18	18	25	25
Duty - -	12	12	8	7	3	5
Freight and charge -	10	10	10	10	10	10
	50	57	36	35	38	40
Averages -	49	- -	32	33	40	38
English fine	50	55	Malting 34 Chevel[r] 37	33	40	40

By this statement it appears no foreign corn could be brought in to pay any profit, excepting the *finest* qualities of white pease, which would pay 2*s.* per quarter; therefore if the present prices are remunerating it appears safe to substitute the above scale of duties instead of those now in force.

17092. You would lower the pivot price?—Yes, and fix the duty at 10*s.* per quarter at the respective pivot prices I have stated.

17093. Mr. *Sanford.*] What is the pivot price?—The pivot price on wheat I have put at 50*s.*, at which price you cannot have any foreign competition at the present moment.

17094. *Chairman.*] Would you go as low with your duties as 1*s.*?—Yes; I would have the duty come off entirely in times of scarcity.

Mr. *R. Ruding.*
15 June 1836.

17095. Do not you think that it would be an advantage to stop short of the 1*s.* and to fix the lowest duty at 4*s.* or 5*s.*?—No, I do not think that it would be an advantage except to the revenue, because it would be a tax upon the public at high prices, and no benefit to the farmer.

17096. Do you think the low duty of 4*s.* or 5*s.* would by any impediment to the importer?—No, it would only tend to raise the price till the importer could afford to pay that duty. The great evil of the present corn law is the high prices that must occur before any importation can take place at a low duty. The higher those averages are fixed for such low duty, prices are sure to rise thereto in times of scarcity, which occasions the greater fluctuation in prices when a fall takes place from abundant supplies in subsequent amply productive seasons.

17097. Do you think that the public would object to the payment of a duty of 4*s.* or 5*s.*, and will it not operate in diminution of the profits of the corn-dealer?—It would not operate in regard to the profits of the corn-dealer. If he knew he had that 4*s.* or 5*s.* to pay, he would purchase accordingly. I think the public would in times of scarcity, when wheat might be 5*l.* per quarter, object to pay such duty as a severe tax on them in addition to the high price.

17098. It has been suggested to the Committee that the duty on wheat should never be permitted to go below 4*s.* or 5*s.* a quarter, and it has been stated "If the holder of bonded wheat have the option of 1*s.* duty, it is manifest that when the wants of the country are imperative he will never pay 5*s.* A minumum duty of 5*s.* therefore would be no tax on the public, but a reduction of his profits." Are you not inclined to agree to that?—No; I do not see that a minimum duty, when foreign corn is wanted (as stated in my last answer) and prices are high, is otherwise than a tax on the public. Vast sums of money have been collected in duties upon corn in the course of the last seven years; there have been no less than three millions of money collected upon nine millions of corn, which is a tax, taking it as an average on all corn imported during that period, of about 6*s.* per quarter. The average duty on wheat in that sum was about 6*s.* 8*d.*, barley 5*s.* 8*d.*, oats 6*s.* 1*d.*, rye 3*s.* 9*d.*, pease 6*s.* 9*d.*, beans 11*s.* 2*d.*, Indian corn 3*s.* 10*d.*, buck wheat 6*s.* 1*d.* per quarter, and flour 1*s.* 11*d.* per cwt.

17099. Lord *Howick.*] Then you prefer the present system of gradual reduction of the duty in order to avoid what you conceive an unnecessary tax upon the public when wheat is high?—Certainly, but not the present scale of high prices and duties.

17100. Do you conceive that the effect of the present system is by introducing uncertainty in the trade, to make the profit of the corn-merchant at one time very high, and his losses equally high at other times?—Certainly.

17101. Does not that objection apply to any system of fluctuating duty?—Of course it would, but the higher the average import prices are made the greater the fluctuation would be.

17102. But is it not the fact, that any system of fluctuating duty, which leaves it a matter of uncertainty whether corn may not be shut up in the warehouses for many years, or, on the other hand, come out on a mere nominal duty, that any system of that kind must render the trade one of a gambling nature, in which there are at times very large profits, and at other times very heavy losses?—No, I do not apprehend that it would have that effect upon a moderate scale of duties; the variation would be so trifling that it would not come under the denomination of a gambling trade, but a fair trade, I should say, for the supply of the country in case of need, because a fluctuation then never could be so very great as under the present high scale of averages and duties. It does not follow because the duty is so high, when prices are low here from over production, that the importer is obliged to keep his corn until it rises. He often has an opportunity of exporting to other countries which require a supply during the winter, when the Baltic ports are frozen up; and importing at lower rates, his losses would not be enormous.

17103. *Chairman.*] Then the Committee understand that you would fix the pivot price of 50*s.*, and impose a duty of 10*s.*?—Yes, at that average price.

17104. Increasing that duty 2*s.* a quarter for every fall of 1*s.* a quarter in the average of six weeks?—Yes; increasing the duty 2*s.* per quarter for every fall, and decreasing it 2*s.* per quarter for every rise of 1*s.* per quarter below 50*s.* per quarter, and only 1*s.* per quarter for every rise or fall of 1*s.* per quarter above 50*s.* per quarter. This would operate as a protection to the agriculturist, who in my opinion ought to be protected to a certain degree, not pressing too heavily

heavily upon the manufacturing classes, to whom it would insure a supply in times of need at low duties.

17105. Lord *Howick.*] Then, under that system, supposing wheat to be imported with the price at 50*s.*, if the average price were to fall to 45*s.*, the duty would in that case rise to 20*s* ?—Yes.

17106. Therefore the importer would only be able to receive for his corn 25*s.*, his corn would only be worth to him 25*s.* a quarter ?—Certainly, if *compelled* to pay that duty, which is not the case, it being optional.

17107. On the other hand, a rise from 45*s.* to 61*s.* would make the corn duty free ?—Certainly.

17108. Therefore the difference in the real price of only 16*s.* would make a difference in the actual price to the corn importer of the whole sum between 25*s.* and 61*s.* ?—That it certainly would if the importer were compelled to enter his wheat when the averages fell to 45*s.* per quarter.

17109. Then that being the operation, and the necessary operation of any fluctuating duty, has not the result been, as before described, namely, in one case to increase the natural profits from the state of the market, and on the other hand also to increase the losses which would be incurred from the mistake, on the other side, of the importer ?—I think not, because corn here is always allowed to be imported and landed in bond; the consequence would be that if the averages fell as you have described to 45*s.* per quarter, the importer would not enter his corn at 20*s.* duty, but keep it in bond for the chance of export, which frequently occurs either to Spain or Portugal, and at the present moment to France and America; and he of course would not be the loser you imagine, not being compelled to pay any duty unless he thinks proper, or to dispose of it here.

17110. He is not the loser to the full extent; but is it not the fact that, with the chance of that kind, having the market closed to him against the entry, practically very heavy losses have been incurred in these few years by retention of corn in the warehouse ?—Under the present laws, undoubtedly; but with my proposed scale of duty, it would never encourage the importer of corn to give that enormous price for it abroad that he would do under the existing laws.

17111. But still the only relief to the importer in such case is by exporting the corn again under those circumstances ?—Yes, that is the case.

17112. And even though the first price should be lowered, will not the risk still remain of the importer being left with corn for a very considerable period in warehouse, with no profitable means of disposing of it ?—If he were obliged to wait the alteration in the British averages for its consumption here, he might be a great loser; but on the other hand, as he is not compelled to do so, he may be relieved from any great loss by exportation.

17113. In point of fact, suppose corn imported here upon the calculation of the price of 50*s.* then at that price, and the duty charged by law at that price, it would just afford a fair profit to the importer; suppose the price then to fall and the duty to rise, and that the importer was left with the other alternative of keeping his corn at a loss in his warehouse or of exporting it, is there practically a chance of corn, which has been laid in store at that price, being profitably exported to any other part of the world in general ?—That would depend upon the prices at which corn may be in different countries.

17114. Is not the person who looks to exportation again of his corn, as a means of relieving himself from the effects of a miscalculation of the state of the British market, under the necessity of competing in the foreign market with the persons who have carried their corn direct without a double shipment ?—Certainly; and in summer time we are very incapable of competing with the Baltic ports; but in the winter, when they are closed, and any demand for exportation arises, we have the advantage, because they are obliged to come to us in severe winters.

17115. Then is not the result of the evidence which you now give, that although the diminution of the pivot which you have proposed, would certainly prevent the extent of loss being so great as it is now, that still the system of a varying duty would leave the corn importer subject to considerable losses in consequence of that change of duty ?—Certainly, it may make him subject to heavy losses; but in all mercantile transactions men are subject to a loss as well as gain; and I do not consider that it is a greater loss.

17116. But as you have stated that persons in mercantile transactions are always

Mr. *R. Ruding.*

15 June 1836.

always subject both to loss and gain, is not the tendency of a system of fluctuating duties to add to the losses on the one hand, which would be entirely turned by the variations of the market, and in the same manner to add to the profits on the other?—Of course that must be decidedly the case.

17117. That is, instead of tending to encourage certain and moderate profits, it has the tendency to increase profits, increasing also the risk of loss?—Certainly.

17118. Under those circumstances, then, does it not follow that when the price rises and the duty falls, the public pay, in the shape of increased profit to the importer, as a recompense to him for the risk he has incurred, a sum equal to the additional duty which they would have paid under a system of constant duties?—The public would pay more to the importer in the shape of profit and less in duty; but it is impossible to say whether or no that sum would be equal to any duty they would have paid under a system of constant duties, without knowing what such constant duties are.

17119. *Chairman.*] You put down in your paper that the freight and charges are 10*s.* a quarter; are not those charges exceedingly high?—Those charges are high, more than they would at this moment actually cost if the wheat brought here was sold directly from the ship; but as that is frequently impracticable, if it were put into a granary, those charges, in addition to the freight, the commission for shipping on the other side, the factor's commission here, the metage and the risk of the voyage (which is always something considerable, because corn is frequently damaged); 10*s.* is not too much for the whole of the charges.

17120. What is the usual freight from the Baltic ports to the port of London?—Freights vary extremely; at the present moment I suppose you might get wheat from Dantzic at 4*s.* 6*d.* or 5*s.* per quarter.

17121. How do you make up the other 5*s.* of the price?—The commission of the merchants on the other side would be two per cent.; the factor's commission and charges here upon wheat would be about 2*s.* per quarter; insurance, 6*d.* in summer; in winter, after gales, 2*s.* per quarter, and sometimes more; the risk of the damage during the voyage, suppose from five to ten per cent; it varies exceedingly; it is impossible to calculate to a nicety upon corn, because sometimes cargoes arrive quite hot, and sometimes they meet with partial damage, which you cannot very well insure against, because corn is free from average unless general, or the ship be stranded.

17122. Then you are satisfied that 10*s.* is not too much to cover all those charges?—No, I should say not, that no speculator should import wheat without taking such charges into calculation, and Mr. Jacob, in his report, confirms that.

17123. But you are stating those charges to the Committee from your own experience as a factor, and not from Mr. Jacob's report?—From both.

17124. Then the English importer has to pay 10*s.* a quarter in consequence of freight and other charges?—Yes, if he cannot succeed in selling to his mind from the vessel, heavy charges are incurred by lighterage from the ship, and porterage to granary, which would make 10*s.* a proper calculation; though it is sometimes less it is sometimes more, freights being occasionally above 8*s.* per quarter, even from the Baltic.

17125. What is the expense of keeping corn for any time in the granary?—Per annum it would be about 4*s.* a quarter on wheat.

17126. Does that include the general expenses?—Yes, the turning the insurance from fire, and the porterage up to and down from the granary.

17127. Mr. *Clive.*] And the wasteage?—The loss is very uncertain, it varies, according to the condition in which corn is landed, from 3 to 5 per cent., perhaps more than that occasionally, when landed very hot and consequently swollen.

17128. Mr. *Cayley.*] As well as the interest of the money?—Yes, and the charges become very heavy if the importer is compelled to keep his corn any length of time.

17129. *Chairman.*] How long will corn keep in a good state?—If in good condition when landed it will keep for many years.

17130. Mr. *Clive.*] Then do you mean that generally the English merchants keep their corn on the opposite side of the water, ready to bring it whenever necessity requires?—Not generally; but they have done so within this last year, and previously on many occasions.

17131. *Chairman.*] Is that in consequence of the charges being lower on the other side of the water than they are here?—It is; we can keep corn at Dantzic for 1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* a quarter per annum.

17132. What

17132. What is the great difference in the charges?—Chiefly in the granary room.

17133. What is the great advantage which you proposed that your plan would possess over the present system of corn laws?—Merely to equalize prices more than the present system, because the prohibitory duty is not so high.

17134. Can you at all state what you think would be the average price on the average of years if a plan of that kind was adopted?—It is impossible to do that, for it will entirely depend upon the harvests.

17135. You propose to lower the duty on foreign barley in the same way as you do on foreign wheat?—On all corn, as stated in my plan.

17136. What should you take as the pivot for barley?—I think I have stated 30 *s.*

17137. What duty would you propose at that price?—Ten shillings; I have stated the duty on all corn at 10 *s.* per quarter, at certain averages, to simplify the plan.

17138. What would be the difference of the present duty on foreign barley and your proposed duty on foreign barley?—The difference is 5 *s.* 10 *d.* per quarter, the present average of barley being 32 *s.* and the duty 13 *s.* 10 *d.*, and by my plan the duty would be only 8 *s.* per quarter.

17139. Your proposed duty would be 8 *s.*?—Yes, at the present average of 32 *s.* per quarter.

17140. Then you would allow that scale to ascend and descend precisely as it does now?—In the same manner, but at my scale of duties, which I think is more advantageous to the public, and also a protection to the agriculturist.

17141. Can you state to the Committee what description of barley is usually imported, and from what countries it is generally imported?—We get every description, from grinding to fine malting barley.

17142. Can you get any large quantity of fine malting barley from abroad?—We do not get considerable quantities of fine malting barley, but we get some very fine—the Saale barley.

17143. What is the present price of good malting barley in the outports on the continent?—I suppose the finest malting barley would be about 20 *s.* per quarter. In my plan, I have put barley at 18 *s.*, taking the medium price.

17144. What is the present price of fine malting barley in England?—Thirty-four shillings. The Chevalier barley is worth 37 *s.*; but the latter is a peculiar description of superior stout barley, that we do not get from abroad.

17145. Do you find that the barley comes in a good condition for malting?—If it be a favourable season, and shipped in good condition.

17146. You put the same amount of freight upon barley that you put upon wheat, 10 *s.*?—I do, because the freight is but a trifle less than wheat.

17147. Is not barley lighter considerably than wheat?—All barley is lighter than wheat, some considerably.

17148. Then something must be added in the expense of bringing over barley, in consequence of its liability to heat?—I should say it is more liable to heat than wheat.

17149. And when heated it is less capable of being made into malt?—It is, because it becomes stale, and neither maltsters nor distillers buy stale barley.

17150. You are aware that a petition has been presented to the House of Commons for the renewal of the Grinding Act?—I am aware of it.

17151. That petition has been referred to this Committee; have you ever turned your attention to that subject?—I have not, materially. If foreign corn had been allowed to be ground here, the British miller might have competed with the foreigner in the winter season.

17152. When the Baltic ports were closed?—Yes; but now it is a matter of no importance.

17153. Supposing the same circumstance should occur again, and a considerable quantity of foreign corn be bonded in this country, when the duties are high, do you think that if the Grinding Act is re-enacted, it will not still be open to some fraud?—I do not think that it would, because heavy penalties are inflicted for allowing corn to be taken out of bond, except under certain regulations, and for fraud under that Act of Parliament.

17154. What would be the objection to grinding corn in bond?—I do not know of any objection to it at all.

17155. There would be no objection to putting a mill under bond, and allowing foreign corn to be ground there?—Certainly not.

Mr. *R. Ruding.*

15 June 1836.

17156. Should you not consider that, if there was any objection, it would be, that it would give a monopoly into a few hands?—That would be the only objection, that a miller could not grind his own corn.

17157. Would that not be got rid of by the competition which, in those cases, would enter into the trade, that other millers would be put under bond?—It is possible; but to effect this, the expense of building mills would be too great.

17158. Did you ever hear of a petition that has been presented from Liverpool upon this subject?—I am aware of such a petition.

17159. Do you know the plan that has been proposed by the Liverpool merchants?—I do not, because, as a corn factor, I was so little interested in the grinding, that I did not take much notice of it.

17160. Have you any other suggestion to offer to the Committee, with reference to the corn laws?—None; only I think that if my plan were to be adopted it would be well to try it at the present moment, as I apprehend that there is no very great stock of corn on the continent.

17161. Do you think that that system would afford a sufficient security to the farmer, and would be much more beneficial to the public?—I think it would be much more beneficial to the public, and a sufficient protection to the farmer, if the pivot price I have named for wheat be a remunerating one. The pivot prices of all other grain, I certainly think, are remunerating.

17162. What have you put wheat at?—At 50*s.*, at which the agriculturist is fully protected by the duty I propose, if the price be in itself a remunerating one, because it is clear, from the prices on the Continent, you cannot have any competition from them at that price, which would impose a duty of 10*s.* per quarter.

17163. Are you aware whether there is any great quantity of foreign corn bonded?—The whole quantity of bonded wheat and flour in Great Britain is about equal to 615,987 quarters of wheat, calculating a sack of flour to equal one quarter of wheat. A quarter of wheat will make rather more than a sack.

17164. You state that it is the practice of the corn factors to warehouse a great deal of corn abroad; can you state at all whether there is at present any great quantity of corn warehoused abroad?—I cannot give any idea of what quantity may be purchased by British subjects, and warehoused abroad; but I should imagine that in all the ports of the Baltic there are not above 500,000 quarters of wheat bought on British account.

17165. Mr. *Sanford.*] At this moment?—Yes.

17166. *Chairman.*] Can you state at all what quantity there is at Dantzic?—About 240,000 quarters. This account I got from a gentleman who is largely engaged as an agent for Dantzic and other Baltic houses, thinking that the Committee might wish for some information upon the subject.

17167. Is that a detailed account of the quantity of corn in all the ports?—It is, but he told me that he could not depend upon the precise accuracy of it.

17168. Is it a fair approximation to it?—Yes.

17169. Then, if that be correct, there is not above a month's consumption in the warehouses in England, and in all the ports of the Baltic?—No, I do not think in all the ports of the Baltic, including Denmark, you have more than a month's consumption for the United Kingdom; and if we should have a bad crop this year we may have enormous prices.

17170. Have you any means of giving information to the Committee as to whether there is more than the average quantity of corn in the hands of the farmers now?—No, I have not any means of giving precise information upon that subject; my opinion is that there is about the usual quantity.

17171. But not more than the usual quantity?—No.

17172. Mr. *Sanford.*] On what is that opinion founded?—My opinion is founded upon conceiving the crop of 1834 to have been an excessive one, probably from a million-and-a-half to two millions of quarters more than an average crop, and the crop in 1835 an average one; in those years we had a surplus of probably from a million-and-a-half to two millions of quarters beyond our usual consumption, yet I do not think the stock of wheat now left is so very large as it appeared to be some months since, from the depressed prices occasioned by speculators and others not holding their usual stocks, as large quantities have been consumed for cattle feeding, distillation, and by those who formerly ate oatmeal.

17173. If, as you suppose, there was from a million-and-a-half up to two millions the surplus of crop in 1834, that must be in the country at this moment?—That surplus is greatly decreased.

17174. You do not suppose that there has been any great increase in the consumption of corn?—Yes, I do; I think that there has been a great increase in the consumption as well as in the production of corn.

17175. Do you conceive that there has been any increase in the consumption of corn in consequence of the low price?—A very great increase.

17176. More than in previous years?—Yes, I should say so; during the last two years many of the parties who used to eat oatmeal now eat flour, and a great quantity of corn has been appropriated, from its low price, to the food of cattle, and oxen have been fed upon crushed wheat, to a great extent, instead of linseed cakes.

17177. Then you do not think altogether that the stock in the hands of the factors and in the hands of the agriculturists is more than the average quantity of surplus in the country?—I do not think more than the average quantity is left on hand from the extra consumption, though the last two years (more particularly 1834) were very productive.

17178. Are you aware of the quantity which remains in the country at all of British wheat?—No, it is impossible to get at such information, it is mere guess, but I imagine not exceeding two millions of quarters beyond our natural consumption to the usual period of harvest.

17179. That is about two months' consumption?—About a month and a third.

17180. Are you able to give the Committee any idea of the quantity of corn in the hands of growers on the continent?—Not in the growers' hands; the quantity I have stated abroad is entirely in the hands of merchants at the different ports.

17181. Has the want of speculation in corn been as great on the continent as it has been in this country?—Yes, until within these last few months, when a demand arose for France, Belgium, and America, and orders went out from hence.

17182. Then if there is any corn on the continent it is in the hands of growers of corn on the continent?—Yes, and merchants together.

17183. But you state that the merchants have not above 500,000 quarters?—Altogether I do not think you would get above a million of quarters in case you required it. I stated I thought there was not above 500,000 quarters purchased in the Baltic on British account.

17184. Mr. *Clive.*] As compared with other years is this supply abroad less or more, taking the usual averages for the last few years?—I should say the supply is about an average one, for looking at the importation generally when we have had moderately low duties, they rarely exceeded half a million, except in times of very great scarcity here, after periods when we have been long without an importation at low duty.

17185. You have stated that merchants prefer keeping their corn abroad; would that arise from there being a small quantity of grain abroad, and that therefore the value is more enhanced being there?—It arises from the granary charges being lower abroad than in England, and also from another cause which I ought to explain; many parties speculate abroad, and when the corn is left in the hands of the merchants there, if they be opulent they will be satisfied with from one-third to one-half of the amount of the speculation being paid, holding the corn as a security for the residue, which of course renders it a more beneficial operation to the speculator.

17186. Lord *Howick.*] You conceive that, supposing the system of fluctuating duties to be maintained, the pivot price should be fixed for each species of grain at about what might be expected its average price; that was the principle of the paper which you delivered in?—Yes, its average remunerating price.

17187. And the duty at that price, if the Committee understand you right, you proposed to fix at such an amount as that when applied to the charges of of importation, it should bring the price of foreign corn up to that of the British corn?—Yes, at the present moment.

17188. So that any rise of price, under the system which you have proposed, above the pivot price, should enable the importer to bring his foreign corn for home consumption—it should give a price at which the importer could afford to clear his corn for home consumption?—Yes, it must rise some shillings to enable him to do this.

17189. Would not the effect of this be to discourage the purchase of British corn, except for immediate consumption, when the price was about the average; since the speculator would, in that case, find the disposition of the market to rise checked by the diminution of the 2*s.* in the duty for every 1*s.* in the average price, enabling foreign corn to come into competition with the British corn?

Mr. R. Rading.

15 June 1836.

corn?—Of course, in that case he would be more disposed to purchase foreign corn for speculation than English.

17190. It would discourage speculation in British corn wherever the price was any where at all near about the average which you fix for the pivot?—It would.

17191. Would not this be a great disadvantage to the British farmer, in as much as when after a harvest a greater quantity of corn is brought into the market than is required for immediate consumption, a small excess, if not absorbed by speculation, would produce a considerable fall of price?—Any excess produces a fall in price, and the moment it produced that fall which would prevent its being advantageous to the foreigner to pay the duty and bring his wheat into the British market, the importation would cease.

17192. But is it not true that, in an article of the nature of corn, if there is any cause which discourages speculation, a comparatively very small excess above the wants for immediate consumption will very considerably depress the price of the whole quantity in the market?—I do not think a small quantity would have that effect; but the prices are entirely regulated by the demand and supply.

17193. But is it not true if, assuming, as before, that there is some cause which discourages speculation when a considerable number of sellers are all trying to sell their corn, although the amount of excess may be comparatively small, still that excess will produce a considerable fall of price?—Not a very considerable fall, I should imagine.

17194. Mr. *Heathcote.*] You are aware that in the last Agricultural Committee it was asserted that England, upon the average of years, did not grow enough of corn for its own consumption; can you give the Committee any information as to your belief whether that is true or not at the present time?—My impression is, that England has grown sufficient for its consumption for the last two or three years, because we have had very low prices for wheat without any foreign importation.

17195. Can you give any information to the Committee relative to the subject of taking corn out of bond to be ground for exportation?—No, I cannot, because I have not been much interested as a corn factor in the flour trade.

17196. Would not the effect of it be, that all the British shippers would draw their supplies from foreign corn?—Certainly it would.

17197. At present they are obliged to victual themselves with English flour?—No, at the present moment they buy bonded flour almost entirely.

17198. Therefore such an Act as that would confirm that, and no British flour would be bought for the future?—I think there is scarcely any English flour used for vessels going long voyages.

17199. *Chairman.*] Those ships were victualled from America, Newfoundland, and the West Indies?—Some ships have been loaded with bonded flour to North America, to Bahia and to the West Indies.

17200. Then it would not have answered the purpose of merchants to have exported British corn, because the price of British corn was too high to have competed with the prices in those countries?—Certainly.

17201. It was necessary to them to resort to foreign corn, to enable them to stand upon a par with others?—Yes.

17202. Mr. *Heathcote.*] Then you believe that scarcely any British corn is used on board ships?—I do not think it is.

17203. At this time?—Yes.

17204. Mr. *Miles.*] Was the harvest generally good in foreign countries exporting corn to this in the last season?—No, generally speaking, it was indifferent, and more particularly in Poland, whence the finest wheat comes; but the crop of 1834 was generally very fine on the continent.

17205. But still can we look now to the quantity in foreign warehouses as the average quantity likely to be in the warehouses one year with the other, ready to be exported to this country?—I should think, as far as I am capable of judging, that it is about an average, not excessive quantity.

17206. Taking the number of ship loads of barley that are imported for the purpose of being malted, how much would be heated out of a certain number?—That it is impossible to say.

17207. You stated in your previous examination that a great quantity is heated?—Some occasionally is heated; it depends entirely upon the state in which the barley is shipped; if it happens to be remarkably dry and fine, and

shipped

shipped in good weather, it would not heat at all, except from accidental damage in the vessel, unless the voyage be very long.

17208. Mr. *Cayley*.] Then your scale for altering the corn laws appears to be upon the presumption that 50 *s*. is a remunerating price?—Yes.

17209. Supposing that 50 *s*. were considered by the farmers not remunerating, would you be inclined to leave the present corn laws alone?—I should not be inclined to leave them alone; I would lower the present import price and raise the pivot price which I have proposed, but keep the same duty at whatever pivot price was considered remunerating.

17210. Supposing the same scale of duty was preserved, do you think that it would be any advantage if the graduated scale did not fall so low as 1 *s*., but rather stopped at 6 *s*. or 7 *s*.?—I do not see any advantage, because if you stopped at 6 *s*. or 7 *s*., it would be a tax upon the public of that 6 *s*. or 7 *s*., which would not relieve the agriculturist.

17211. Will you state whether you consider that the present corn laws have been protective to the farmer?—The present corn laws have certainly protected the farmer, inasmuch as they have prevented an importation, except in times of absolute scarcity.

17212. Do you consider that the object of the corn law is to protect the farmer under the low price, and the public under the high price?—The object of the corn laws I imagine to be as you state.

17213. Do you think that the effect of the variations, from the fluctuation of the duty, has tended to prevent men speculating in foreign corn?—No, I do not think that it has had that effect.

17214. Is it not generally the complaint in the corn trade that the trade has been ruinous of late years, since the establishment of the corn laws?—Certainly, it has been very ruinous, because the speculators, as the averages rose to near the price at which wheat was importable at 1 *s*. per quarter duty under the present corn laws, were induced to give very high prices for it, and consequently when a fall occurred the greater was the loss.

17215. Then will not the graduated scale have the effect, if it has proved a ruinous speculation to corn dealers, to prevent them from speculating in foreign corn?—Not upon a lower scale.

17216. Supposing the present duty was to remain?—If the present duty was to remain, it would have the same effect that it had formerly.

17217. Will it not rather tend to throw obstacles in the way of speculation in foreign corn?—No; because at the present moment you may buy foreign corn at far less than the import price, which would bring it out at 1 *s*. duty, at which price the speculator would be very well disposed to run the risk till it arrives at that enormously high price.

17218. Is that the practice?—It is done at this moment.

17219. Is it not the fact that since 1832, very little foreign corn has been introduced?—Very little has been introduced, because of our two good harvests of 1833 and 1834, and I may say of 1835.

17220. Anything that tends to make a speculation ruinous, does not that tend to prevent people entering into it?—Any thing that tends to make it ruinous.

17221. Do the Committee understand you to say that it has been a ruinous trade?—An amazing sum of money has been lost in the corn trade.

17222. Then if the corn laws have had the effect of producing a ruinous speculation to foreign speculators, will not that induce people to embark money in home rather than in foreign corn?—While you have the present high scale of duties, a speculation of home produce would be preferable, in ordinary times, to a speculation in foreign; but when there is so great a disproportion in the price, as there has been between the price of English wheat and wheat upon the continent, many parties were induced, as a fair speculation, to buy wheat abroad at those low prices, waiting the chance of the opening of our ports at some future period.

17223. But, under ordinary circumstances, our present corn laws are a premium upon speculating in home corn, and a penalty upon speculating in foreign corn?—It is a premium upon speculating in home corn at certain prices, but it is not a penalty upon speculating in foreign corn unless prices rise very high.

17224. If the corn laws be enacted for the protection of the farmer, and if the operation to the farmer be advantageous, should you not say that the present system of corn laws had answered their end?—The present system of corn laws has

Mr. *R. Ruding.*

15 June 1836.

has been advantageous to the farmer by preventing the foreigner competing with him when prices are low from abundant seasons, but it does not insure the farmer high prices, which must be entirely regulated by the seasons.

17225. Would you say that there has been an absence of speculation both in home and foreign corn of late years?—There has.

17226. Would you be inclined to attribute that to the continued fall of price?—Yes, from successive abundant crops.

17227. Would you be in favour of free trade in corn generally?—It would be more beneficial to me as a corn factor; but at the same time I do not think that it would be so advantageous to the agriculturist as the plan which I propose.

17228. Some questions have been put to you with regard to the price which the factor can put upon the commodity which he sells; do you conceive that when the duty falls to the 1*s.*, that then it is in the power of the corn factor to sell at his own price?—Certainly not, he can only get that price which the supply and demand will enable him to do; the competition prevents his fixing any price; there is no such thing as monopoly in the corn market.

17229. Then if it is assumed that the corn factor would be found, in consequence of the result of the present system, to put on an inordinate profit when he has got his corn into the market, that would be rather an erroneous assumption?—Yes; he cannot put on any profit that he likes; he must be guided by the supply and demand.

17230. Supposing the duty did not fall to less than 6*s.* or 7*s.*, might not the effect be on the one side to prevent a speculation so as to reduce the duty to the lowest pitch, and might it not prevent foreign powers laying a tax upon their corn before it left their shores?—I cannot say.

17231. Have you never heard of such a thing occurring, as the King of Prussia, when he knew that there was a great demand for corn in this country, laying a tax of 10*s* a quarter upon the corn before it left his kingdom?—I have not heard of such a thing; it might have happened.

17232. The *O'Conor Don.*] Are you aware that there is a tax by Russia imposed upon tallow on the same principle?—No, I am not.

17233. Mr. *Cayley.*] Supposing that to be the case, and that purpose to exist in the mind of a foreign power, the preventing the duty falling lower than 6*s.* or 7*s.*, might be an advantage to the revenue of this country, without being any injury to the consumer?—There can be no advantage to the revenue of this country in imposing a duty without its being injurious to the consumer; because if the King of Prussia put a duty upon his corn, and you put another duty, the consumer would have two duties to pay.

17234. Suppose the people of this country would only pay a certain price, and supposing that the King of Prussia saw that any tax was laid on in this country, which prevented him taxing it before it left his dominions; would not the effect of the duty not falling lower than 6*s.* or 7*s.* be to increase the revenue without its being an injury to the consumer?—I cannot say that any tax would be otherwise than an injury to the consumer.

17235. If the tax, not being laid on here, is laid on elsewhere, what difference does it make to the consumer; whereas if all the corn that necessarily comes in under a high price is to pay 6*s.* or 7*s.*, would not that increase the revenue?—The duty that you put upon corn does materially increase the revenue, where you have a great importation, as has been seen; from 1828 to 1835 three millions of money have been levied in duties, which amounted to about 6*s.* a quarter upon all grain, which is a tax to that extent on the consumer.

17236. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] Did the Committee understand you rightly in saying, that, in your opinion, the supply of fine wheat has chiefly to come from Poland?—Yes, the supply of fine white wheat.

17237. May not we expect some from the line of the Elbe?—Yes, from Hamburg, and all along the Elbe; but it is chiefly red wheat.

17238. In considerable quantities?—In large quantities occasionally.

17239. Are you not aware that evidence was given before the Committee of 1833, by merchants of Liverpool and others, that much larger supplies of wheat had been received from various sources than was expected when the corn law underwent the last alteration?—I am not aware of that; the importations do not appear to be very enormous.

17240. With

17240. With respect to your evidence upon barley, when you state, in your opinion, 20*s.* is the price of fine malting barley what do you state as the range of the prices of barley generally abroad?—They vary exceedingly; they are to be had from 14*s.* to 20*s.*, according to the quality.

17241. Are you aware whether there was any considerable import of barley, except in the years 1817 and 1818, during the course of the present century?—There have been large imports of barley since the year 1828, amounting to 1,224,000 quarters, but I cannot give the particulars of the actual years in which they arrived.

17242. Can you state to the Committee the late annual import of barley?—I do not think that I can, for, thinking that I should be chiefly examined upon wheat, I took merely the gross quantity as imported from 1828 to 1835, but I cannot separate them; I could give all that information if I had known that the Committee would have required it.

17243. Mr. *Heathcote.*] What is the quality of this foreign barley that comes over?—It is extremely various, some is very thin and light, some stale, some heavy yet only fit for the purposes of grinding; some new, stout and perfectly sweet, which is the only quality fit for malting.

17244. Where does the superior kind of barley fit for malting come from?—From the River Saale and Magdeberg on the Elbe.

17245. Does it come in small quantities?—It does not come in very large quantities.

17246. The tendency of your evidence is, that you would wish the pivot price to be lowered, which in the last two or three years would produce an average price of about 50*s.*?—The pivot prices in my plan are about the present value of British corn at our market.

17247. But you are aware that for those few years that you speak of, there has been a great produce of wheat?—Yes.

17248. What would you think would be the effect of lowering the pivot price in bad harvests?—In bad harvests it would secure a regular supply of foreign corn with less fluctuation in price to the public.

17249. But with no proportionate increase of the price of British corn?—I do not consider that it would prevent a proportionate rise in British corn. If you have a bad harvest in this country the foreign supply, which would be trifling, would only prevent enormously high prices. The great alteration from high to low prices has been chiefly from a succession of abundant crops after importation, and sometimes from erroneous ideas of the excess of produce, not from excessive importation.

17250. Do not you think that it would be likely that British corn would rise, i there was a heavy duty upon the importation of foreign corn, more than if there was a light one?—Yes.

17251. Then the lowering of the pivot price, when there was a bad harvest here, when the farmers had two quarters instead of four or five, would have a bad effect upon them?—If you got a very large quantity; but if you had any thing like the result just stated it would amount to an actual scarcity, and we should have enormously high prices both for British and foreign corn, which would assimilate in their proportionate value for similar qualities.

17252. Supposing it was not the extreme high price you allude to, but a more moderate quantity; suppose, instead of their growing four quarters, they should grow only three, that would very much check the fair price that the English farmer ought to have, from having less corn than he had before?—Of course, any foreign importation would check the price of the English farmer, and therefore would not be beneficial to him; but with a crop of three quarters instead of four, let the importation be the largest ever known, the farmer would be certain of high prices as a remuneration for his short crop.

17253. Therefore you have looked at it more in reference to the consumer than the producer?—My opinion is, that the farmer ought to be protected; but I cannot say what is the protecting price to him; but you might alter the pivot price to 5*s.* higher, and still have the same scale of duty.

17254. *Chairman.*] If you are right in the calculation as to the quantity of corn which is in the warehouses abroad, and also in the warehouses in England, and in the hands of farmers; and the next harvest should be an exceedingly bad harvest, and prices were to rise very rapidly, do you think the public would be

Mr. *R. Ruding.*

15 June 1836.

satisfied with the present corn laws?—The effect would be this, that no importation would take place until prices were very high, and you would be almost in a state of starvation. If you had a very bad harvest, a fourth or a fifth deficient, you would get no adequate supply.

17255. Do you think the want of a supply abroad has been occasioned by the closing of our ports against foreign ports?—I do. I imagine that abroad farmers have turned their attention to seeds, which are importable at small duties, such as linseed and rapeseed; and to the production of wool, by converting arable into pasture land.

17256. Then is it your opinion, that, supposing any system of corn laws to be continued, which has the effect of closing our ports against the introduction of foreign corn for a long period together, whenever we have a succession of good favourable seasons, that that must necessarily drive a quantity of land abroad out of corn cultivation, so that it should be applied to other purposes; and that, in consequence, if we have one or two bad seasons in succession, we may be exposed almost to a state of starvation, in consequence of the want of supply from abroad?—That is my opinion.

17257. Mr. *Heathcote.*] You state that, if there was to be a bad harvest both here and abroad, there would be probably so great an outcry against the present corn laws, that they could not be maintained, and that the duty would fall to nothing; in that case would not the corn laws cease?—I do not say that there would be such an outcry against the corn laws; but the effect of a bad harvest would be to raise the prices enormously, and lower the duty to 1*s.* per quarter.

17258. But of course there could be no cry against the corn laws, because there would be no corn laws existing at that time?—Not after prices had risen so as to permit importation at 1*s.* duty; but until prices had so risen, they have the effect of excluding foreign corn.

17259. Then the Committee understand you, that you think we should coax up foreign agriculture, in order to be prepared for bad times in England?—No, you do not understand me perfectly. I would have you offer the foreigner a prospect of vent for his produce, because, in case of absolute scarcity here, if our corn laws at all times prevent importation, it is natural that the foreigner will not grow any surplus for the English market when we require it.

17260. Do you not think that it is enough for us, as Englishmen, and particularly those gentlemen connected with agriculture, to think of our own agriculture, without considering that of other countries?—That involves a serious question. I think the first care of the legislature should be to provide for the wants of the community at large.

17261. And to do that, even if it causes a serious injury to so large a portion of it as is engaged in agriculture?—No, I would not injure the agriculturist, who I think ought to be protected in a proper manner. It only remains for them to say what is the fair remunerating price for them, compared with the rent and taxes they pay, and the value of their land. I would have them fairly protected.

17262. Therefore, in every protection, and in all regulations that you would make to English agriculture, you would have a special object in it of encouraging the foreigner?—Not with a view to injure the agriculturist, but to encourage the foreigner so far as to ensure us a supply in case of need.

17263. Even when that interferes injuriously with British agriculture?—It cannot interfere injuriously with British agriculture if you put a proper protecting duty, not an exorbitant one pressing on the mercantile classes.

17264. But it would do so if it has a tendency unfairly to depress prices in England?—But it cannot; the operation of the Act, and the small quantity imported never could affect the agriculturist, he is more affected by the actual produce of the land than anything else.

17265. But if you should give too much of encouragement to foreign commerce it would have that effect?—No, it would not, for as prices fall the duty would rise, and foreign wheat would be instantly excluded and the agriculturist protected.

17266. Mr. *Sanford.*] From the information which you have received do you conceive that the quantity of corn grown upon the continent has been diminished in consequence of our existing corn laws?—I certainly am of that opinion.

17267. Mr. *Miles.*] Do you wish the pivot to be a remunerating price, whatever

ever that price is to the farmer?—Yes I do; I have not presumed to state what is the remunerating price.

17268. Mr. *Cayley*.] You know that some ingenious men propose to have a fixed duty?—Yes.

17269. Supposing there was a fixed duty of 10*s*. or 15*s*. and the harvest was to be as bad as some men contemplate; what do you think would be the public feeling in regard to the fixed duty?—That there would be a serious disturbance, and the fixed duty could not be enforced.

17270. Would not this be the effect, that the deficiency would cause an immediate rise in the price of wheat?—Certainly.

17271. Would not that cause an almost immediate fall of the duty?—Yes, under the present laws and the more moderate plan I have proposed; but a fixed duty of 10*s*. or 15*s*. would not be endured in times of scarcity.

17272. Then the public would be protected by our present lower range of duty more than they can be under any system of fixed duties?—Yes, and for that reason I proposed a graduated scale of duties instead of a fixed duty, because in times of scarcity the public would not like to have an additional tax imposed upon them with the high prices, and in times of plenty the graduated scale of duty protects the agriculturist.

17273. Would not the effect of a moderate fixed duty be an affectation of protection to the farmer in times of plenty, and no protection to him in times of deficiency?—A moderate duty would be no protection to the farmer in times of plenty, in those of scarcity he needs no protection, the high prices produced by it are then sufficiently remunerating.

17274. In very deficient seasons, when the price rose very high, do you think that the public would bear a fixed duty of 10*s*. or 15*s*.?—No; it could not be enforced.

17275. You have been understood to say that the quantity of corn in the hands of the farmer is not beyond the average?—I do not think it is.

17276. Notwithstanding the seasons which have prevailed for the last two or three years?—No, because there has been an excessive consumption from the very low price, which has taken off the surplus quantity.

17277. Have you taken means to ascertain the probable result of the ensuing harvest as to the deficiency or ample supply from the crops?—I am given to understand, from the conversations I have had with those who are more capable of judging of the period of harvest than myself, that it must be a month later than usual, that every thing is backward, and though upon some lands the corn looks very well in favourable situations and highly cultivated soils, still, from all that I can collect, there will be a deficient crop of wheat this year, as on unfavourable soils it is very thin.

17278. Do you apprehend that the rise of price which has taken place in the last few months has been in anticipation of a scarce harvest?—I think it has been entirely that, and that the quantity in hand is not so great as some months ago was imagined, for large quantities have been consumed for distillation, cattle feeding, and by parties that used oatmeal.

17279. Mr. *Sanford*.] Have there been any large orders sent for corn from abroad?—By different merchants there are orders to some extent, but to what it is impossible to form any idea.

17280. You are speaking of the transactions with the port of London?—Yes, and I have no doubt that in the outports large corn merchants and speculators in corn have been induced, from the low prices and the idea that we shall want corn before or shortly after next harvest, to send out orders.

17281. You are not aware to what extent those orders have gone?—No, it is impossible to give a correct idea of the extent, but I should conjecture that there were already 200 or 300,000 quarters bought abroad on English account.

17282. Mr. *Heathcote*.] You stated that you thought our system of corn laws had tended to diminish the growth of corn abroad?—Yes.

17283. You stated that either the quantity of corn had increased in England, or that in the last few years there had been enough for our own support?—Yes; I think that the growth of wheat has greatly increased in England, and the quality has very much improved, even in my time.

17284. Do not you think, then, that there is something due to the present system, which has enabled us to supply ourselves from home?—I think the present

Mr. *R. Ruding.*

15 June 1836.

present system of a graduated scale of duties a very good plan indeed; but I think the average prices are fixed too high.

17285. Do not you think that if we can secure to ourselves a permanent supply from home, it is a thing to which we ought chiefly to direct our attention, if we are able so to do?—My opinion is that if we can produce a sufficient supply at home, at moderate prices, and not very considerably above all nations on the continent, that it is our duty to do so.

17286. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] Are you acquainted with the circumstances that took place in the scarcity of 1795?—No.

17287. Are you aware that large sums were paid in the shape of bounty?—I was not aware of that in 1795, but in 1800 that was the case.

17288. You have spoken of a regular supply from the Baltic; does it not appear to you that the trade with the Baltic must, to a certain extent, be carried on by anticipation, inasmuch as the Baltic is shut during the winter months, that it is a matter of extreme difficulty to estimate the quantity of supply?—You can only estimate the quantity of supply by comparing it with the importation of former years; that is the basis on which I formed my idea of it. It appeared that from the year 1791 to the year 1810, the annual importation of foreign wheat, with the exception of four years, was, on the average, under half a million of quarters.

17289. Are you not aware that up to the year 1792 the balance of import over export was exceedingly trifling?—Yes.

17290. Are not you aware that from the year 1806 to 1814 the intercourse with the northern parts of Europe was altogether interrupted by the circumstances of the war?—Yes; but still we got supplies.

17291. Are you not aware that there was only one year during that period, in 1810, when Dantzic fell into the hands of the French, and continued so till the close of the war, in which the import amounted to a million of quarters?—In 1810 that was so.

17292. Mr. *Cayley.*] What was the average in the last year of the war?—I have not the average after 1810.

17293. What came in 1812?—One hundred and twenty-nine thousand quarters.

Mr. *John Hayes*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *John Hayes.*

17294. *Chairman.*] ARE you engaged in the corn trade?—I have been engaged in the corn and flour trade for upwards of forty years.

17295. Are you a miller?—I have been a miller, and formerly occupied some considerable mills.

17296. Are you aware that petitions have been presented to Parliament for the removal of the Grinding Act?—Quite so.

17297. Have you considered that subject?—I manufactured some quantity of kiln-dried flour under the Act of June 1824.

17298. You are aware that frauds have taken place?—I am aware only of one fraud being attempted, on which occasion I was a witness on the part of the Crown, but the fraud was detected as soon as the flour was inspected; indeed nothing is so easy as to detect fraud under that Act.

17299. Do you think that that Act could be renewed, or that any alteration could be made in it so as to prevent the possibility of fraud?—I am quite of that opinion; neither is there any adequate temptation to commit fraud under the Act; for there would be no market for bad flour when exported.

17300. Will you state to the Committee simply what the principles of that Act were?—It allowed a certain quantity of flour, 196lbs. of flour, to be put into bond in lieu of 5 bushels of wheat to be taken out of bond; there was a penal sum of 5*l.* for every quarter of wheat taken out of bond, if the stipulated quantity of flour was not returned into bond in conformity to the conditions of the Act.

17301. Supposing bonded corn to be let out under the provisions of that Act, would the quantity of flour that you there placed in warehouse, cover the quantity of corn that would be then bonded and the offal?—No; the offal would be for consumption.

17302. Then the offal being set free would be prejudicial to the farmer?—I should think beneficial, because it is an article of consumption for cattle, and the farmers and graziers are the great consumers.

17303. What

17303. What is the great objection to grinding corn in bond?—There are various objections; it would be attended with more expense and be confined to particular mills, which would be an injustice to millers generally; and on that very account it would be attended with greater expense, because, if the millers generally were permitted to grind it, they would grind it with their surplus power; but if sent only to mills bonded for that purpose, a specific sum must be paid for the grinding; excise officers would also be required for each mill; besides which, as a certain quantity of flour is required to be returned into bond, and it is not requisite that the flour shall be made from the identical wheat released from bond, there is no occasion for bonding the mills.

17304. Then you do not think that that expense would be got rid of by the competition amongst millers?—The confining the grinding to bonded mills would prevent competition.

17305 If the Grinding Act had been in force before last Christmas, a great deal might have been imported into England and ground?—A great deal of the wheat then in bond, or British wheat in lieu of it, would have been exported in flour. When the Baltic ports are closed, during the winter months, bonded corn would be exported with advantage to the West Indies?—Yes, in flour; and also to South America and Australia, &c.

17306. At other times is it not the case that our ships are often driven to foreign ports for supplies of corn and flour, and that they take an opportunity of getting all their cordage and their sails and tackle connected with the ship at foreign ports?—They get some of their flour and bread from Hamburgh, and I suppose other things if they can get them cheaper.

17307. And all other provisions?—Yes.

17308. Therefore it would be an advantage to the agriculturist, supposing that bonded corn could be taken into the warehouse under certain regulations, and ground for importation into England, inasmuch as all our supplies of provision which could be produced in this country would be shipped from England for the supply of the crews of those ships?—No doubt it would; the Grinding Act of June 1824 did not require the flour to be made solely from the wheat released from bond, and indeed it is an advantage to the farmer that the flour so exported should rather be made from British wheat, which would relieve the British market when it was most depressed, and the foreign wheat would probably be held back for a better price; besides which, it is necessary to make a good article to compete with the American flour, and if the corn had been bonded any length of time it might be stale; and it would make no difference to the farmer, because, if his wheat is used, the foreign wheat only replaces it.

17309. And it would require the best quality of English wheat to compete with American?—Yes; unless the flour exported from England was of equal quality to the American flour it would not sell in the foreign markets.

17310. It is possible to make as good flour from Dantzic wheat as from English?—I should think so, but the flour hitherto made at Dantzic is not much esteemed in the foreign markets, the quality, however, has been improved of late; some of the Dantzic wheat is very fine.

17311. Have you seen the petition from Liverpool containing the proposition with reference to debentures, that for every quarter of British corn that was exported a debenture should be given equal in amount to the sum that would be given to liberate the same amount of corn?—Yes, and in the first instance it struck me as being too complicated, but now I see that it would be an advantage both to the farmer and merchant, because it would extend the exportation of flour very considerably, and it would induce purchases to be made in the winter season when the British market was most glutted, for the purpose of selling the wheat so released in the spring or summer.

17312. Do you think that that plan would be more advantageous to the agriculturist than the mere removal of the Grinding Act?—I think it would in every respect.

17313. Do you think there would be any means of those debentures being collected in a mass and being made available to the speculators in corn when the duty was exceeding low, so as to enable him to let out a great quantity of corn?—No doubt it would be the object to do so, but it would have this beneficial effect, that it would bring a supply into the market when it was wanted, and check a further rise in price which would otherwise take place.

Mr. *John Hayes*

15 June 1836.

17314. Then it would act as a bounty when the markets were glutted?—Yes, and the fact that those debentures were in the hands of those persons would operate as a check upon a rise in the prices of wheat abroad, and also have a tendency to prevent a larger importation than was necessary.

17315. Then you do not apprehend that the agriculturist could suffer from the adoption of that plan?—I think he would be benefited by it.

17316. Mr. *Sanford.*] Can you at all state the present price of bran in comparison with the price of flour?—The price of bran has been high of late, on account of the great demand for cattle food; it has been as high as 10*s.* a quarter; the usual price is 7*s.* or 8*s.*

17317. There has not been a relative fall in the price of bran to the price of flour, has there?—On the contrary, the price of bran rose in consequence of the failure of the turnip crop.

17318. But I am speaking of the price of bran at present in comparison with the price of bran during the war when wheat was sold very high?—The price of bran is not regulated by any comparison with the price of flour, but by the demand which exists for oats, beans and barley, for which it is a substitute when it is cheaper.

17319. Therefore the price of wheat and bran can bear no comparison?—No, the one is not regulated by the other.

17320. Mr. *Cayley.*] Would you not say that the high price of bran, which is a substitute for beans and barley and oats, is owing to the deficient crops in those sorts of grain?—Yes, I attribute it to that circumstance, and of turnips also.

17321. Mr. *Heathcote.*] Would it displace so much of those articles?—When oats are dear it is cheaper to feed with bran and oats or beans than with oats alone.

17322. If you bought this foreign bran it would displace so much of the English oats?—I do not know that, because, it being cheaper, there might be more cattle produced.

17323. According to the Act, five bushels of corn were to be placed against 196 pounds; had you any restriction of the weight of corn and the quality of flour?—The quality of flour is specified in the Act.

17324. Had you any restriction of the quality of the wheat?—It was to be made of the best fine wheat flour; you could not make good flour out of bad wheat.

17325. But you might take fine wheat and put in bad flour?—That would be contrary to the provisions of the Act, and subject the offender to the penalties; besides which, it would not answer the merchant's purpose, for he would find no market for bad flour.

17326. Do you think that the plan which you prefer would be liable to frauds?—Not at all, as you would still require to have fine flour to be put into bond.

17327. But you proposed that the same wheat should not be taken out and returned, but that a tantamount quantity of flour should do for that quantity of bread?—Yes, either use it or not, as best suited the purpose.

17328. Are you acquainted at all with the way in which the mercantile marine of this country is victualled at present; is it victualled chiefly with foreign corn or with British corn?—I believe so.

17329. Then the corn which is used in the shape of biscuit, or in any way whatever, is almost entirely supplied from foreign markets?—Either direct from foreign ports or brought from thence to this country and re-exported.

17330. For how long a period has that been going on?—For some few years.

17331. How many years?—I can hardly name the period, but for some time past.

17332. Sir *R. Price.*] Five years ago the navy was supplied with corn?—Farther back than that.

17333. How many years ago?—I can hardly tell.

17334. Ten years ago?—I really do not know.

17335. Ten years ago it was furnished with corn and home produce?—Possibly.

17336. What caused the change?—Because they got the foreign bread cheaper.

17337. But do not they pay any duty?—No, they do not.

17338. They have the privilege of taking the corn out of bond for the purpose of their own supply?—I believe there is some customs regulation which enables them to do so.

17339. Mr. *Heathcote.*] How are the King's ships supplied—with foreign corn?—No, there are mills erected at the Victualling Office at Deptford and Portsmouth; and Government buy their wheat by public contract, and manufacture it into flour and biscuit themselves; they do not use any foreign corn.

17340. Mr. *Cayley.*] Would you be inclined to place any limit upon this Liverpool plan, and not let the debentures into the market, at least not allow them to take out the corn by these debentures under a certain price?—I do not think that they would use the debentures till the duty fell, but it might happen that the duty would not fall again; then, if they were not permitted to make use of them, they would be a dead weight in their hands; supposing that the prospect of the next harvest was very good, and prices were likely to be lower the following year, they might want to sell some of the wheat; I think, however, that the greater part would be held when the duty was high, because it would be only capitalists who could take these debentures.

17341. Would it not be some security for the agriculturists if those debentures were not let in under 45*s.* a quarter?—I do not know that there would be any object to that.

17342. Would they object to going to 50*s.*?—I think this matter should be left to the discretion of the merchant.

17343. *Chairman.*] You have turned your attention to the state of the corn laws from having been so long engaged in the trade, will you state to the Committee what your opinion is of the present system of corn laws?—I wrote a small pamphlet upon the subject in the year 1824, and there I advocated a fixed moderate duty, and I have not seen any reason to change my opinion since.

17344. What was the amount of that duty?—I did not suggest the amount, but that it should not be a high duty; indeed I suggested it more on the score of revenue, that the Government should derive a small duty from foreign grain and flour which should go in mitigation of other taxes.

17345. What fixed duty should you propose?—I should think 8*s.* a quarter on wheat would be high enough.

17346. Are you a regular importer of it?—Occasionally on commission.

17347. You can state to the Committee what is the average freight and the expense of bringing the corn from the Baltic?—About 7*s.* a quarter covers all the charges into the Thames.

17348. You think 7*s.* is sufficiently high?—Yes, in the summer months.

17349. Then that, with the fixed duty of 8*s.*, would make 15*s.*?—Perhaps you should deduct from it the expense of bringing British corn round the coast to the London Market, which would make it about 12*s.* to 13*s.* per quarter more than the cost of British wheat into the Thames.

17350. What has been the average price of corn in the Baltic ports for the last two years?—I cannot tell you the average price, but the lowest price which I have known for fine Dantzic wheat is 28*s.* per quarter, which was the price last winter, and that is now worth 33*s.* to 35*s.*, in the anticipation of our duties becoming lower.

17351. Then the natural effect of any system of corn laws which would admit corn at a fixed duty would be to raise the price of corn abroad?—Unquestionably.

17352. How much per cent. would you calculate that that rise would amount to?—It would depend upon the quantity which might be wanted; very much upon the season; if we had an abundant harvest you would not require much, and, of course, the price would be low; if we had a deficient harvest you would require a much greater quantity, and the price would consequently be higher.

17353. Do you think that in times of scarcity when the price was very high a duty of 8*s.* could be then required?—I should think not; but I think that would not often occur, and would be still rarer if corn was admissible at all times at a low duty.

17354. Then you presume that the price of corn would be so exceedingly high at that time that the farmer had been remunerated long before it reached the point at which it would be necessary for Government to interfere?—I can hardly tell as to the remuneration of the farmer; for that extreme price would only arise from a very deficient crop, and a short stock of foreign corn under bond in the granaries.

17355. It would be only in extreme cases?—Yes; in the course of my life I have known a high bounty given upon the importation of wheat.

Mr. *John Hayes.*

15 June 1836.

17356. Do you consider that the effect of the fixed duty at 8*s.* would be to keep the price of corn more steady than it has been of late years?—I think the effect would be to keep out of the cultivation of wheat some of the poorer soils which were brought into cultivation when the price of wheat was high; indeed, they are already beginning to revert to other purposes, the low price of wheat of late not having repaid the expenses on such soils. I think that a duty not exceeding 8*s.* per quarter on wheat might restrict our own growth within the limits of our consumption; and in such case, land that was suitable to grow wheat would obtain quite as high if not a higher rent than at present, as such a quantity would only be imported as would be deemed necessary to supply such deficiency; and in such case we should not be overwhelmed at one season with an excessive surplus, and at others experience a scarcity.

17357. Do you mean out of cultivation altogether?—The poorer soils would return to spring corn or be laid down in pasture land, of which at present there is no superabundance.

17358. Would you apply the same principle to barley as to wheat, of a fixed duty?—Yes; but a lower duty on barley than on wheat.

17359. What duty would you propose as an adequate duty on barley?—I should think about 5*s.* per quarter.

17360. Have you imported any great quantity of barley from abroad?—Formerly I have, and at a very ruinous loss to the importers.

17361. It does not answer to the corn merchant?—Very rarely indeed; it is an article that will not keep on the voyage unless you have a quick passage; when it arrives here it is seldom fit for malting purposes.

17362. Is there much corn grown abroad of a sufficiently good quality to malt?—Yes; there is some very fine; Silesian is very fine; but it keeps very badly on the voyage.

17363. And there is so much risk in the transport that the English farmer has not much to fear from the competition of the foreign market with respect to barley?—I should think not, unless the prices should be above the usual average rate. I have had a great deal pass through my hands, and it has generally been an unprofitable speculation.

17364. Do you think that the present system of corn laws, in consequence of the fluctuating duty, has a tendency to cause the corn factor to withhold his supplies from the market that he may be enabled to bring as much corn as possible into consumption at a low duty?—The merchant may direct his corn factor to do so.

17365. That has been done?—I think that the very low price of wheat about Christmas has tempted some merchants to purchase it under the idea that the price might rise afterwards, and most of it is yet in store.

17366. Was there not a great quantity of corn imported in 1830 at a low rate of duty, just before the harvest?—Yes; but I do not think that any quantity of wheat has ever been introduced except at a low rate. I have a paper of the average duties that have been paid.

17367. Will you produce that paper?

[*The Witness produced the paper which was read as follows:*]

"In 1830, at the harvest time chiefly, about 1,700,000 quarters of wheat and flour paid a duty averaging 6*s.* 4*d.* per quarter.

"And again in March, 1831, 1,500,000 quarters more, at a duty of 4*s.* 8*d.* per quarter."

17368. Would not the admission of this very great quantity of corn at that particular period of the year be very prejudicial to agriculturists?—Under the present laws it generally comes in upon the eve of our harvest, and presses upon the farmer between the harvest and the Christmas following, because the lowest point of duty will be generally near harvest time, and that is the point at which the duty is paid.

17369. And the effect of that would be to depress the price at the time when the poorer farmer is bringing his stock of corn into the market?—Unquestionably it would have that effect.

17370. Have you ever considered what would be the price of corn if your plan of a fixed duty of 8*s.* was adopted?—I should think after a little time good wheat would not average under 50*s.* per quarter.

17371. Do

17371. Do you think that that price would be maintained with less fluctuation than under the present system?—Yes; but the prices of corn are governed so much by the harvests that it is difficult to say.

17372. What has been the average price in the last three years?—I am not prepared at present to answer that question accurately. About Christmas last the best wheat was only worth about 42*s.* per quarter.

17373. Mr. *Cayley.*] What reason have you to suppose that the price would permanently range about 50*s.*?—Because I think that the duty of 8*s.* upon the foreign market would not give encouragement to them to ship to this market unless good wheat obtained about 50*s.* per quarter; and that the effect of a duty not exceeding 8*s.* per quarter would be that a less quantity of wheat would be grown in this country.

17374. When you speak of 50*s.* you include the freight?—Yes, and all other charges.

17375. Are you aware that 12*s.* added to the price that you named of best Dantzic wheat, 28*s.*, becomes 40*s.*?—Yes; but that price existed only in the absence of all demand.

17376. Are you not aware that when you state that 28*s.* is the price of the best Dantzic wheat, you are stating a sample of wheat which is not the average of this country?—Yes; but I do not speak of 28*s.* being the general price of Dantzic wheat, but that in the absence of all foreign demand there was some bought at as low as 28*s.*

17377. You state that at a particular period the best Dantzic wheat was 28*s.*; at that same period what was the price of such Dantzic wheat as would be equivalent to the wheat of this country?—Twenty-eight shillings.

17378. Is the average wheat of this country equivalent to the best Dantzic wheat?—No.

17379. How much below?—About 5*s.* a quarter.

17380. Then the average wheat of this country has been 23*s.* in Dantzic of late years?—Foreign wheat of the average quality of British red wheat might have been bought at 23*s.* per quarter in the absence of all demand; but if you had wanted to have bought 10,000 quarters of wheat you would have raised the price immediately.

17381. If 23*s.* is the price in Dantzic of the average of English wheat, 12*s.* added to that would make it 35*s.* unless the price rose; and last Christmas such wheat would not have sold for more than 35*s.* or 36*s.* per quarter, duty paid, in the London market?—Thirty-five shillings per quarter into the Thames; but you would put on something for profit, because the merchant would not import without a prospect of profit, and besides, you must add to the price into the Thames the expenses of warehousing, loss of measure, &c., which amount to at least 3*s.* per quarter more, and foreign wheat frequently arrives warm, in which case it must of necessity be put into granary. But the Committee are supposing a case which could not exist if there were any demand.

17382. You are aware that the calculations of many have been very often baffled and disappointed on this subject; that Mr. Jacob professed that if we had any scarcity in this country we should not be able from the whole of the world to import more than (I think) a million of quarters?—I do not venture to make any calculations; but I am speaking of fact, that in the absence of all demand in Dantzic, there was a small quantity bought as low as 28*s.* a quarter.

17383. When you state that there is a prospect if we had a low fixed duty, that the price would rise on the other side of the water, you are stating a calculation?—No, a matter of fact also; because the same wheat which was bought at 28*s.* is now worth from 33*s.* to 35*s.*, upon the mere apprehension that this country may require an import in the ensuing year.

17384. When you state that under a low fixed duty the probability is that there would be a rise of price generally of wheat on the other side of the water, you are stating that which is not fact but a theory?—If foreign corn be at a low price only when there is no market open for it, it is fair to infer it will rise when there is a demand for it.

17385. If there was a general demand and a constant demand in this country for foreign corn, would there not be a tendency to bring a greater quantity of foreign land into cultivation?—Not unless it obtained a higher price.

17386. If there was an increase of the quantity sown, that would tend to lower the price or to keep it stationary where it was?—If the price kept up in

Mr. *John Hayes.*

15 June 1836.

the continent, in consequence of the fixed duty, that would be an encouragement to produce more grain.

17387. That would cause a fall of price?—That would depend upon whether the increase kept pace with the demand in this country.

17388. Then it is a matter of theory?—I am only speaking as to those things which are in my knowledge; that in the absence of any demand in the Dantzic market, I purchased a quantity of wheat at 28*s.* a quarter, and that at this moment, our duty having only fallen from 50*s.* to 40*s.* per quarter, I can obtain 33*s.* in Dantzic for that wheat.

17389. Are you aware that there has been a rise in this country in consequence of the anticipation of the harvest?—It is that rise which has in some measure produced that effect.

17390. Under any circumstances would that take place?—It would cause a corresponding rise abroad.

17391. Then whenever there is a probability of a higher range of price in this country there would be a probability of a rise on the other side of the water?—When there is no fixed duty it is held till the lowest point of duty.

17392. You have stated something with regard to the low duties that were received for wheat during the deficient harvests of 1828, 1829, 1830 and 1831; do you intend to draw any inference from that low duty?—Yes; I intend to say that, under the present system of corn laws, when the prices of wheat are rising, the foreign wheat will not be entered for consumption, that the merchants will hold it until they see the lowest point of duty to which it is likely to come, generally speaking, with a few exceptions.

17393. Are you aware that another inference has been drawn by Lord Fitzwilliam, in a pamphlet which he wrote, that the duty having been so low proved that the present corn law was only adequate to that degree of protection?—I should draw that inference.

17394. That the duty, in consequence of the graduated scale having been only during those years of importation, 6*s.* 4*d.* upon the average, you would draw the inference that that was the degree of protection which the agricultural interests of this country received from the corn laws;—I do, and I draw that inference from the circumstance of good British wheat having been as low as 40*s.* a quarter at a time when the duty on foreign wheat was 50*s.* per quarter.

17395. Supposing the deficiency to have been such, that instead of having 6*s.* 4*d.* duty, upon the average, levied as was the case, that the price had risen upon the average of seven years to 70*s.*, and that the corn had entered at 1*s.* duty; then according to your principle, the degree of protection to be afforded by the present corn law would be only 1*s.* a quarter?—But I do not think that if foreign wheat was admissible at all times at a moderate duty, the price would rise so high as to bring it to the price required under the present law for a duty of 1*s.* the quarter, unless under a succession of bad seasons.

17396. If the price in this country, in consequence of deficient harvests, had been above 60*s.*?—It might still bear a duty of 8*s.* per quarter.

17397. Supposing the price to have been 70*s.* a quarter, and the duty only 1*s.*, you would say that the degree of protection by those corn laws was equivalent only to 1*s.* duty?—You are supposing a season of scarcity that does not very frequently occur, and in reasoning upon a general principle, you should not select such periods of scarcity.

17398. Is it not the fact, that this corn law under a great degree of cheapness, such as has existed the last two years, operates as an utter prohibition?—It has, completely so; but a duty of 8*s.* only would have done nearly the same.

17399. Then if the years of plenty or the years of cheapness continue, the present corn laws will continue to operate as a prohibitory Act?—Yes; and so they would have operated if there had been a duty of 8*s.* or 10*s.* per quarter only.

17400. What would you conceive to be a prohibitory fixed duty?—It depends upon the nature of the crop which you have in the country.

17401. Upon the average of years what should you say was?—If I take the evidence of facts, any price above 6*s.* 4*d.* is the fixed duty.

17402. At the present time, do you suppose that 6*s.* 4*d.* would be a prohibitory duty?—No; it might not be entirely prohibitory, but at Christmas last there would not have been any profit upon it.

17403. Is it not the fact, that there is apprehension of scarcity?—Some persons think so, but that is dependent upon the ensuing harvest; and people have been so often deceived in their calculations, that they will not venture much upon it.

17404. Is

17404. Is it not the fact that the present corn law operates in this way, that under a plenty of corn it is a prohibitory law, and that when there comes a scarce harvest, such as occurred in 1828, 1829, 1830 and 1831, that then the duty falls and the public have the advantage of the importation of corn at a low rate of duty?—The public have the advantage, but they pay a high price for it, which they would not otherwise; and I think those high duties have operated also to the prejudice of the farmer, inasmuch as they have induced him to cultivate his land at a great expense, under the idea of obtaining higher prices than he has permanently realised.

17405. You say that the public have had the advantage of the high prices rather than the lower rate of duties; do you conceive the present corn laws raised the price in 1829 and 1830?—It was the season which caused the advance; but the prices were enhanced for a time by the foreign corn being withheld from the market for the 1*s.* duty.

17406. You stated that, according to the present law, the disadvantage to the farmer was, that it let in a great quantity of foreign corn just before harvest?—It has frequently so operated.

17407. Has it operated so in the last two or three years?—I am speaking of the time when it is led into consumption, and that has most frequently been about the month of August or September.

17408. Was it not the intention to let the foreign corn come into consumption when the price was high?—Yes.

17409. Has it not had that effect?—It has.

17410. It was contrived for the benefit of the British farmer?—I presume so.

17411. And has it had the effect, whenever corn has been cheap, to protect him?—It has led him to bring more land into cultivation, and he has been deceived in the result as to prices.

17412. With respect to the public, it has given to the public the advantage of a low rate of duty, whenever there has been a high price, in consequence of a deficient harvest?—But they have paid a high price in the interval, before they have obtained it.

17413. If it be the tendency of the corn law to produce a high price, why did it not in the last year?—Because it will only produce a high price when there is a want of corn.

17414. Then the effect of it is to protect the public under a high price, and the farmer under a low price?—It does not protect the farmer from a low price.

17415. Does it not protect the farmer as far as foreign competition is concerned?—Suppose that you had admitted the importation of foreign wheat, duty free, I do not think you would have had wheat under 40*s.* a quarter at present.

17416. That is a question altogether away from the question of the corn law, the price being made by the supply and demand, and the value of money; may not the argument to which you have referred affect the price of corn, as it is affected by the value of money, or by the supply?—I consider that the farmer, expecting a greater benefit than he has derived from the high duty on wheat, has made an effort to produce a greater quantity, which he would not renew, if the prices continue so low as they have lately been. Now if there had been a free trade, he would have had no such expectation, and therefore he would not have gone to this great expense.

17417. Does not your argument go to this, that if certain advantages of corn laws had not been held out to the farmer, he would not have entered into such improvident leases, and he might have been better off?—I think so; and he would not have put himself to the expense of so much manure as he has done. Now rape cake is imported solely for the purpose of manure in this country, and it is a very expensive article: bones in like manner.

17418. Though that might be an argument in 1815, when wheat was 80*s.*, and the corn laws had promised a continuance of 80*s.*, does it follow that because the farmer has been disappointed of getting 80*s.* a quarter by the corn laws, that he may not, to 40*s.* a quarter, be protected from foreign competition?—But he never calculated coming down to 40*s.* The prices fluctuated from 1815 to the present time.

17419. Do you think that the fall to the present price has arisen from the corn law?—I think there has been a great improvement in the system of agriculture in this country, that more corn has been grown per acre than formerly, and harvested better; and that the system of draining has been very much

Mr. *John Hayes.*

15 June 1836.

improved upon, otherwise I should have been surprised to find that the supply should have kept pace with the increased population.

17420. Mr. *Sanford.*] Then the effect of the present corn law, though it might have induced a deceitful expectation in the farmers, has had the effect of improving the agriculture of this country?—Decidedly.

17421. And in point of fact it has given protection to the farmer though it has not given him price?—It has induced him to grow more corn than he would have done; but I think it is a fallacious protection. I think that if you were to impose a heavy duty upon the foreign corn, it would be no protection to the farmer, unless you gave him a bounty to get rid of his surplus in seasons of abundance, because you will either grow a greater or a less quantity; and if you grow more than is wanted, and you have no other market for it, your price must go down to the level of other markets.

17422. Is not the protection from foreign competition all that the law can give?—That was not the case when I was a youth, because then there was a bounty upon the exportation of wheat when the price was low.

17423. Supposing that no bounty is given upon the export of corn, is not that the only protection which can be given?—Yes.

17424. Then with the fixed duty, was it your intention of putting a bounty upon the export?—I said that, to make the measure an effective protection to the farmer, there should be a bounty, bearing a proportion to the duty you imposed on the import.

17425. Then would not that have the effect of bringing so much land into cultivation; would not a system of fixed duty, with a premium for exportation, have the effect of bringing so much land into cultivation, or of encouraging the agriculture of the country, just as the existing corn law has done?—That I cannot tell. I only know that when there was a bounty on the export of wheat, that we were occasionally an exporting country.

17426. What was the price of wheat at that period, upon the average?—As far as I recollect, there was a bounty of 5*s.* a quarter allowed, when the price was under 44*s.*

17427. Is it not a matter of fact, and not of speculation, that a larger quantity of land is in cultivation than there was at that period?—Yes. I do not know what proportion it bears to the increase of population, but that there is more corn grown is unquestionable. It is only of late years that Ireland has supplied so large a quantity.

17428. Mr. *Heathcote.*] Has not the tendency of the present corn laws been to diminish the quantity of corn grown abroad?—I should presume it has.

17429. And you think, at the same time, that lately a considerable increase has taken place in the growth of British corn?—Yes, within some years.

17430. Do you think that we grow enough for our own consumption?—In good harvests we have grown more; in 1834, for instance.

17431. In the last few years there has been no importation of foreign corn?—There has not.

17432. So that there is reason to believe that we grow enough for our own consumption?—Yes, in a series of good seasons.

17433. Do not you think that that speaks very highly for the present system of corn laws, that our own agriculture has been encouraged, and we have been enabled to raise enough for our own consumption?—Yes, if the farmers are satisfied with the price.

17434. Do not you think that you had better allow them to speak for themselves?—I refer to the evidence which they have given before this Committee, and which I have read.

17435. You do not speak that of your own knowledge, but you only say it from opinion?—I say it of my own knowledge, that where the land is good and the rent moderate, the farmers have not done amiss in the last few years.

17436. What is the scale of fixed duties which you propose for all species of grain?—That is a matter for other persons to decide; I think 8*s.* a quarter for wheat, 5*s.* for barley, 6*s.* for beans and peas, and from 3*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.* for oats.

17437. Do you think that a fixed duty of 8*s.* upon wheat, would perhaps throw out of cultivation a seventh of the land at present cultivated with wheat?—It would turn it to other purposes, to grazing; in fact it is going of itself to those purposes now, because the graziers are doing so much better than the farmers, that many are laying down their lands in grazing.

17438. You

17438. You stated before that that land would be employed for oats and other grain?—And also for pasturage.

17439. If you lower the scale for foreign oats and other grain, would it not equally throw that land out of cultivation too?—No, because with the duties that are proposed, I do not think that it would reduce the prices from the ordinary prices.

17440. Not a duty of 3*s.* 6*d.* a quarter for oats?—No, for you must not take the prices of foreign grain, when there is no importation, as the criterion when it is wanted.

17441. Then you think that it would reduce the price of wheat, but not of barley and oats?—It would not reduce the prices of any grain lower than they have been.

17442. But surely that throwing out of cultivation would be very injurious to the agriculturists, merely looking to their interest?—But the land would be valuable for other purposes; if it was not cultivated for corn it would feed sheep and cattle.

17443. Would it bring so much money to them?—No, I do not think it would, but it remains to be seen whether they will continue to receive the same rents for their lands, with the present corn laws, as they have done.

17444. But a reduction of rent might be something in favour of the tenant, but in reference to the proprietor who cultivates his own ground, it can be nothing else but a complete injury to him?—I should think the individual interest of the proprietor of land would not be the only interest to be considered in the framing of a corn law.

17445. Sir *R. Price.*] Your opinion is that it would not be lower than 50*s.*—Yes; not on an average of three or four years.

17446. That is a higher average than it has been for the last few years?—Yes

17447. *Chairman.*] Are you aware that the average price of corn, since 1828, has been considerably under 60*s.*?—Yes, because the Irish wheat is of a very low quality, and has reduced it.

17448. Mr. *Miles.*] Have you for some years purchased foreign corn?—I have had a great deal pass through my hands on commission.

17449. And you have been for some years engaged in that business?—Yes.

17450. What is the result of your experience of prices abroad, when there is a large export to this country?—The prices are very high there.

17451. Will you state the prices of the different descriptions of grain in the years 1828, 1829, 1830 and 1831?—My memory will not serve me to tell you what the prices were, but I think the Dantzic went up to 60*s.*

17452. In the ports of the Baltic what was the price?—They were governed very much by the prices obtained in this market, but I cannot from memory give any accurate quotations.

17453. You speak a good deal from experience of late years as to the price in other markets?—Yes, from personal experience.

17454. Mr. *Heathcote.*] You stated that 6*s.* 8*d.* you thought, had been found to be an effective prohibition?—I said that it would have been a prohibition at the late prices of 40*s.* in Christmas last.

17455. How do you connect this price of 6*s.* 8*d.* with your own idea of 8*s.*?—I never meant to say that a duty of 6*s.* 8*d.* would at all times be a prohibitory duty, but I merely said that the price of wheat had been so depressed in this country this last year, that with 6*s.* 8*d.* duty it would not hold out an encouragement to importation.

17456. You state that very little barley can come into this country?—No; I mean to say that in my experience in the importations of barley which have taken place, the greater part have been ruinous to the importers, but there is fine barley to be procured, and if it bore a high price here it would be bought.

17457. Where is that brought from?—From Saale.

17458. Is that fit for malt?—If it were shipped in a good condition and had a quick passage it would be good to malt, but the chances are against that, and it so soon ferments that there is a great risk in bringing it over.

17459. When barley comes from Saale there must be a considerable addition for transport?—You pay a high price there for the finest qualities, and the freight is to be paid also.

17460. What was the last price you paid for this fine quality?—I have not had any of the fine quality; that which I had was from Copenhagen.

Mr. *John Hayes.*

15 June 1836.

17461. Was that good?—No, and most of it heated on the voyage.

17462. Was it fit for malting?—The maltster would not use it except from necessity; I believe that none of the Danish barley was sold for malt.

17463. Then is it your opinion that no great quantity of barley is to be expected from abroad, except under a different system from the present?—I think not; it is bought for distillation and feeding cattle, but not much for the maltster.

17464. Mr. *Cayley.*] Have you paid any attention to the prospects of the next harvest?—I hear the reports of the farmers upon that subject.

17465. Have you had any agent in the country to look at the crops?—No; but I have had an opportunity of seeing an extensive correspondence from Ireland as to the quantity they have been sowing there in the last year, and they state that one-third less of wheat is sown.

17466. Have you had any correspondence throughout England?—Yes; I see a great many farmers but I doubt whether the diminution is to any great extent in England; in some particular instances they state it as an eighth, but I should think the usual course of husbandry has been more generally pursued.

17467. Sir *R. Price.*] What have they got in its place?—Oats and barley and grass seeds.

17468. Mr. *Cayley.*] Speaking of the harvest, what do the farmers say?—The harvest will be rather a late one, because in ordinary seasons the wheat would now be in bloom, and it is not yet in ear, but I should think the present weather is favourable to wheat upon good soils but not upon poor soils.

17469. Do you think that the wheat, upon the average, will ever recover the adversity of season?—I think upon the good lands there may be a good crop, but not upon the poor lands.

17470. Upon the poor lands you state that there is a probability of a deficiency of crop?—Yes; but people are frequently so much deceived in the produce of wheat until it is taken into the barns and thrashed, that I speak with great diffidence on the matter.

17471. What would you state as to the stock in the hands of the farmer?—We have no ground of forming any accurate estimate; it is principally in the hands of the farmer.

17472. Do you think that there is more or less than usual?—More than some years, less than there was this time last year.

17473. *Chairman.*] Do you think if there is a diminution of the growth of wheat in Ireland and if it is true that there is also a diminished breadth of the wheat in this country, that there is a probability of very high prices before next harvest?—No; not if the weather should remain favourable, because there is enough to carry us to the next harvest, but I think you will not get through another year without requiring an import.

17474. But do you think that if the prices were to rise rapidly it might cause such an excitement in the public mind as to put our present corn laws in jeopardy?—My opinion is, that if you have favourable weather for the harvest the prices will not rise materially for the present, but if my information is at all correct as to the diminished quantity of land sowed with wheat, and also that upon the poor soils there will be a deficient crop of wheat, I think that if when we come to thrash the wheat at about Christmas we should find out that there was a considerable deficiency, that then the prices would rise very rapidly, insomuch as you have very little corn in bond here, for the purchases of foreign wheat which have been made of late are not brought over to this country and will not be till the immediate necessity for it; the expenses of holding it on the other side are less, and they are got rid of with less loss in the event of the speculation being unfavourable. It would therefore put the present corn laws in jeopardy when you could not get the foreign wheat in.

17475. You stated that protection to the farmer without bounty was of little use to him?—That is my opinion.

17476. Are you not of opinion that the system of debentures would in effect operate as a bounty?—It would operate materially as a bounty under the present corn laws, when the prices were low.

17477. That is when you want a bounty?—Yes.

17478. In fact, if that was adopted at the same time that a fixed duty was adopted, it would not be necessary for Government to give the bounty; but the bounty would regulate itself, and the corn merchants would, when the price was low

low, take corn out upon debentures, and they would, in fact, act as a bounty?—A fixed duty would very much lessen the inducement to export for the sake of obtaining debentures.

17479. Sir *R. Price.*] Do you not think that it would have a better effect upon the growers of good fine corn than upon the inferior corn?—No, because the price of one is regulated by the price of the other.

17480. Your mode of making the balance even is to send some of the very best corn away; therefore you take that from the other corn?—Yes; but then you raise the value of the inferior corn by so doing.

17481. Mr. *Heathcote.*] You stated that if the price of corn was to rise to a very great height indeed, it is possible there might be such an outcry against the corn laws as to render the whole thing untenable?—Yes, the present corn laws.

17482. Are you not aware that when the price of corn is very high, there is nothing to cry out against?—Yes; but I mean to say this, that if the present impediments to the holding corn in bond are continued, you may not have a sufficient stock of foreign corn in the bonded granaries to check a rapid advance before the Baltic ports are open in the spring, and in the mean time the public may become irritated, particularly so if there should happen at the same time to be less employment for the manufactories.

17483. But the outcry, if there was one, would not be against the effect of the law, but against the foresight of those who might have got their corn in?—No, the outcry would be against the corn law.

17484. Mr. *Cayley.*] Might not the objection which you state, that under the present law, if there should happen to be a scarcity in December, at the time when the Baltic corn could not come, that it might raise a great degree of public feeling against the corn laws, might not that also operate against the fixed duty?—Not if the duty was a moderate one, because when the merchant knew the highest amount of duty that he can be called upon to pay, he would be more likely to hold a portion of corn in bond here.

17485. Under the circumstances of a low fixed duty of 8*s.* would not the foreign importer bring as much to this country, and just as much, as the country demanded?—He would, as far as he could judge.

17486. Then supposing the extraordinary circumstance of a very deficient harvest were to occur, and that was not ascertained till somewhere about Christmas, when the Baltic was shut up, would not the same objection arise?—No; he would be anxious to sell his corn before the fresh supplies came in.

17487. Supposing he had not more than seven months' consumption?—Suppose that the deficiency was estimated at two months of consumption, and in the month of December it was discovered that you wanted four months, the holders would bring their corn in the warehouses into the corn markets before the other would come in, in May, or June or July.

17488. Can you anticipate any such deficiency of crop as that the supply from this country would not be able to equal the demand of the country from December to May?—No; but I think corn would bear a high price in the interval, and the farmer would avail himself of the absence of foreign corn to get a high price for his own.

17489. Under the expectation of the foreign supply in May and June, the farmer would sell his corn?—Yes, but at a higher price than if there were foreign corn in the market.

17490. Is it not a natural and just advantage that the farmer should expect to have some remuneration for a deficient crop?—I am not blaming the farmer for getting the highest price he can obtain.

17491. Mr. *Heathcote.*] When would be the greatest outcry against the present corn laws, when there is a duty of 1*s.* or a fixed duty of 8*s.*?—I think with a low fixed duty you would always find a supply in the warehouses here in time to meet such deficiency.

17492. You think that is possible; but supposing any circumstances were to occur of a very extraordinary high price, do not you think that the corn laws would be in danger in any time of high price from a duty of 8*s.*?—I conceive that then you would suspend the duty.

17493. Then when corn is high you would have no duty at all?—When it is very high you would have no duty at all; but I do not think it can be very high with a low duty, because you would be prepared for it.

Mr. *John Hayes.*

15 June 1836.

17494. Do not you conceive that that is a matter of speculation when you state that it cannot be so?—Yes, but it is founded upon the experience of what does take place in all mercantile transactions.

17495. *Chairman.*] It has been suggested to this Committee by an eminent corn merchant, Mr. Sanders, that the present fluctuating duty might be adopted under a different system; namely, he purposes that the pivot price should be lowered 10*s.* per quarter, and that the duty should never be reduced below 4*s.* or 5*s.* per quarter?—I know that such plans have been proposed.

17496. Do you think that such a plan would be advantageous?—I like a fluctuating duty as a corn factor better than a fixed duty; but I do not think that the public would be so much benefited by it.

17497. Comparing that system with the present system, you think that it would lead to less fluctuation?—Yes.

17498. Still there would remain sufficient fluctuation to be beneficial to the corn factor and injurious to the public?—Those great fluctuations are injurious to all parties.

17499. Mr. *Heathcote.*] Have you ever considered the price of bread relatively to the price of corn?— Yes.

17500. Have you any idea that the price of bread is higher than it ought to be?—I believe that the bakers would rejoice to have the assize restored again; I am quite sure that the price of bread is not at all high, on the contrary the price of bread is so low with the second sort of bread, that the baker can scarcely make a living; with respect to the finest sort of bread the bakers fix it at about what it would have been under the assize laws.

17501. Are you not aware, in looking at the tables, that bread is now higher in reference to the price of corn, than it was in the last 50 years?—Because it is of a better quality; the bakers who sell bread at the highest price have to compete with the underseller in quality.

Veneris, 17 die Junii, 1836.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Shaw Lefevre.	Sir James Graham.
Mr. Wodehouse.	Sir Robert Peel.
Mr. Attwood.	Mr. Bingham Baring.
Mr. Morrison.	Mr. Heathcote.
Mr. Cayley.	Mr. Young.
Mr. Robert Clive.	

Mr. SHAW LEFEVRE, in the Chair.

The Right Honourable the Lord *Ashburton*, attending by permission of the House of Lords, was further Examined.

The Right Hon. Lord *Ashburton.*

17 June 1836.

17502–3. Mr. *Cayley.*] YOUR lordship alluded to the evidence, or rather to the speech of Mr. Henry Thornton, upon the subject of the amount of depreciation or alteration of the value of money in 1811, and you had some indistinctness of recollection whether he stated the depreciation, in 1811, to be 30, 40, 50 or 70 per cent.; have you refreshed your memory since the time we had the honour of seeing you here before?—I certainly have looked at the speech of Mr. Thornton since I gave that opinion; my reason for quoting the speech of Mr. Thornton was, his giving what in my opinion was a very distinct and correct view of the nature of the depreciation and its practical operation upon commercial affairs. I had not read it for several years, but on now looking back to it, I still think that it is the most correct representation I have seen of the operation of depreciation. I should be sorry to be bound to any particular opinion as to the per centage of depreciation, which after all must be very speculative and conjectural. He gives an opinion in the year 1811, that that depreciation was not less than 40 or 50 per cent. I should incline to think that that was a little overstated. Any opinion upon that subject must of course be very vague; but I think I stated in

in my last evidence an opinion something above 30; but I pretend to no accuracy of judgment upon the subject.

17504. These are to some extent matters of opinion as to the precise degree; but do you conceive that there is any person upon whose opinion you would rest greater confidence than on Mr. Thornton's?—I think not.

17505. Do you think there is any person who, from his great commercial dealings, and his acquaintance with the theoretical parts of this subject, was better capable of forming an opinion than Mr. Thornton?—I think not; I think he was the most competent judge that could be taken upon such a subject.

17506. There was a subsequent depreciation after 1811 up to the end of the war, was there not?—The depreciation probably increased.

17507. To what extent should you say that it increased from 1811 to 1814?—I really cannot pretend to any accurate calculation of it. When I spoke of something above 30 per cent., it was only my view of the case; I took that as the whole depreciation; but at the same time I do not pretend to any accuracy.

17508. Mr. Thornton states in a speech to which your lordship has alluded, that, from 1797, the depreciation had been going on steadily, and somewhere at the rate of about two or three per cent. per annum; do you suppose that the depreciation went on slower after 1811 than before?—I think not for several years afterwards.

17509. Then, according to the ground-work of Mr. Thornton's opinion that the depreciation had gone on at the rate of two or three per cent. per annum, the probability is, that, in Mr. Thornton's estimation, at the end of the war, the depreciation would be 10 per cent. greater than he estimated it at about 1811?—About 10 per cent.

17510. You stated that that was the depreciation as it practically affected commercial operations; did you mean to say that that was the practical operation of the depreciation on prices generally?—I think it was, but it can only be taken from a very general view of prices. If you were to go separately into the prices of different articles, they were subject to so much derangement at the time from other causes, that it would be difficult to apply it in detail; but I can only speak from my general view of the case; and looking backward at the facts of those times, I should say that it did apply itself to the prices of commodities generally in about that proportion.

17511. Then when Mr. Ricardo stated in 1819, and appears to have led the House of Commons to believe, that the alteration in the value of money by the establishment of the standard of 3*l.* 17*s.* 10½*d.* in 1819, would only produce an effect upon prices of 3, 4 or 5 per cent., you conceive that that was stated in ignorance of the fact, and of the consequences?—I think he was mistaken, and I stated so at the time; I think he took a narrow view of the whole question.

17512. And that Parliament passed that Act in a complete state of ignorance of its consequences?—I should say that hardly any person during the whole of that operation was fully aware of the consequences that would take place. I believe that Mr. Pitt, at the suspension in 1797, adopted it as a measure of immediate necessity, without any opinion of what were likely to be its consequences; that the public acted upon it in the same ignorance at the time; and there is nothing that shows more the ignorance of the public at large, and of the best informed portion of the public, than those very debates in 1811; because the proposition maintained on one side that no depreciation had taken place, and the proposition on the other side that it would be safe and proper for Parliament immediately to resume payments in specie, shows, in my opinion, an ignorance of the real state of the case at the time; and when we look back at it from this distance of time, we are surprised how sensible men could have been mistaken to the extent to which they appear to have been mistaken.

17513. You stated in 1828 in the House of Commons, that we were then, most of us babies upon the subject of currency?—I do not recollect using that expression.

17514. Perhaps you recollect, as you have alluded to the ignorance of parties in former times, that Mr. Fox and Mr. Sheridan predicted the consequences, in the debates of 1797, and subsequently, of the Bank Restriction Act, and the impossibility for a long time of our reverting safely to the resumption of cash payments, even after peace?—I am not aware of it. I have never looked back to the speeches of Fox and Sheridan on the subject.

The Right Hon. Lord *Ashburton*.

17 June 1836.

17515. When you state that this measure of 1797 was passed in ignorance of its consequences, do you state that opinion of a measure which you conceive to have been very great in its consequences and its bearings?—Very much so.

17516. Do you believe that any Act ever passed the Legislature which dealt more extensively with the engagements and the property of the people?—It certainly was an Act of very extensive consequences, as it affected the property of every body. But in truth the war must have come to an end; you would have been forced to peace in 1797 but for that measure.

17517. In your opinion could we not have carried on the war against France without the Bank Restriction Act, and the issue of paper?—I think not upon the same scale, or any thing like the same scale of expenditure or exertion.

17518. Did the Act of 1819 produce very great distress both among the manufacturing and agricultural interests in the two or three years immediately succeeding its enactment?—I think it an unfair thing to apply it to the particular Act of 1819. First of all there was an engagement on the part of Parliament of what people called the resumption of cash payments. There was a conviction and a desire on the part of the public to return to cash payments, and the Act of 1819 did nothing more than regulate the mode and manner of proceeding. I think, in public opinion, too much importance is attached to the Act itself. That the resumption, whatever may be the period of its real operation, was the cause of very considerable distress, a distress which has now ceased, but which operated more or less through a great many years.

17519. When the Act of 1819 is spoken of, ought it not generally to signify the preparation for, and the final completion, of the resumption of cash payments at the particular standard of 3*l.* 17*s.* 10½*d.* for the ounce of gold?—Yes.

17520. Do you remember some debates taking place on that subject in the year 1821?—Yes.

17521. Does your lordship remember proposing an amendment upon the Bank Cash Payments Bill in 1821, in which you proposed, "That a Select Committee be appointed to re-consider its provisions?"—Yes.

17522. Do you remember at that time to have stated that this question of currency, the more you considered it, the more you felt it to be one not only of the utmost importance, but as "*the one*" in which were involved all the distresses experienced by the country, and their remedy?—I think that up to that period it was that the alteration of the currency was in truth mainly at the bottom of all the difficulties and distresses of those times.

17523. Mr. *Morrison*.] Does your lordship mean the different alterations that took place at different times?—The different efforts all made more or less towards the same object, that of a restriction of currency necessarily consequent upon the return to cash payments.

17524. And relaxations also from time to time?—And from time to time the relaxations.

17525. Mr. *Cayley*.] Did that state of distress prevail for any length of time, which began about the year 1820?—I have not looked back to refer to the details on that subject, my memory does not enable me to turn back to particular years or periods, but I rather think that the distress at that time was not of very long duration; but I speak from very imperfect recollection.

17526. Do you recollect at that period that various causes were suggested for the fall of prices, as well as the one which you thought was "the" question in which was involved the distress of the country?—That subject has hardly ever been under discussion where there have not been very various opinions expressed of the causes.

17527. Do you remember that some parties then very sedulously spread about the opinion that over production and under consumption were the causes of the low prices?—Yes.

17528. Does your lordship remember stating, that it was high time that the idle stories about over production and under consumption and such like trash, should be swept away?—I do not recollect those words.

17529. Do you remember whether this distress, which began immediately after 1819, lasted until 1822?—As I said before, I cannot charge my memory with particular dates; I remember perfectly well that the year 1822 was still a year of distress, but whether there was any intermission between 1819 and 1822 I cannot charge my recollection.

17530. Do you remember any measures which emanated from the House of Commons

Commons in 1822 from Lord Londonderry, as the mouth-piece of the Government, for the re-issue of 1*l.* notes, and for the stimulus of a greater issue from the Bank of England?—Yes, I think there was.

17531. Do you remember what the effects of those measures were upon the productive interests of the country?—Not exactly.

17532. Do you recollect that we had a general rise in prices in 1823, 1824 and 1825?—I think we had.

17533. Do you recollect the prosperity speeches of Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer Robinson in 1824 and 1825 upon that subject?—Very well; I remember the fact now drawn to my recollection, but I cannot say that I recollect the precise circumstances of the different changes with respect to the currency which corresponded with the events.

17534. Have you any doubt that the general rise of prices in 1824 and 1825 was the effect of the enlargement of the circulating medium?—I cannot speak positively as to its being so; I do not recollect whether there were at the time any other operating causes.

17535. If the Government took that step, in co-operation with the bank, to stimulate the re-issue of 1*l.* notes and a larger issue of paper, would it not be the natural consequence that there should be a generally higher range of prices?—I think that the great mistake which at that time the Government made was, upon every complaint of distress from any quarter, as I said before, that it was agreed both by the Government and every body else, that the fault should be laid upon the bank; and the minister for the time, stimulated either by the agricultural interest, or by the manufacturing interest or some other interest, was always interfering with the bank directors in the regulation of the currency, and perhaps much of the difficulty at the time arose from that unsteadiness on the part of the bank in those measures which were forced upon them mainly by the Government.

17536. Were not the bank carrying on that measure very steadily from 1819 to 1822?—I believe they were.

17537. Was not the proposition of Lord Londonderry, in the House of Commons, to enlarge the currency a symptom that he and the Government thought that the country could not bear a steady continuance of the Resumption of Cash payments Act?—I take it that Lord Londonderry's object was to do something for the country gentlemen, who brought their complaints to him without any very distinct notion, and it was convenient to him to fall upon the bank, and to complain of the bank; with every possible respect for Lord Londonderry, an extremely able man, I do not believe that he ever personally understood these questions.

17538. Mr. *Attwood.*] Perhaps your lordship can state whether those measures which he adopted for the purpose of relieving the country gentlemen were calculated to produce that effect?—I cannot quite recollect; but that portion of the interference which related to small notes would much affect the country interest, because I always was aware that the agricultural interest was more affected by the suppression of the country small notes than by any other operation; I think the suppression of the small notes in the country withdrew a facility from the farmers and the persons connected with agriculture much beyond its influence upon any other classes.

17539. Would not your lordship be of opinion that Lord Londonderry's measure of increasing the circulation of the Bank of England would go directly to assist the distress of the country gentlemen?—Undoubtedly; plenty of money tends to assist them, and that plenty is more or less promoted by the increase of the bank circulation; that plenty necessarily aids those who are in distress from the want of that very money, because the moment there is any restriction or any difficulty in money, it falls first upon the most distressed, upon those who have the least security to offer, or the least temptation to offer to those who are to lend it, and therefore I take it for granted that it had its operation.

17540. Then it would follow, that though Lord Londonderry saw, and described but, vaguely, the operation of the measures he proposed, yet they were measures calculated to effect the object he had in view,—relieving the distress of the country gentlemen?—I am unable to answer from recollection what passed at those times, but I think they may have had that effect.

17541. Supposing his measures were to continue 1*l.* notes in circulation, and to procure an extension of the issues of the Bank of England, would your lord-

The Right Hon. Lord *Ashburton*.

17 June 1836.

ship think that those two measures would go directly to relieve the landed interest?—I think they would if there were no other circumstances to effect the alteration of prices. If the alteration of prices had been the result merely of a too great contraction of the currency, then a relaxed issue of the currency may have done good. But there may be other causes operating upon prices which, if they are met by the operation of an increased currency, may produce a mischievous abundance of money, and prevent prices falling to the natural level which other circumstances might bring them to.

17542. The result of what your lordship has stated is this,—that if the low prices of agricultural produce at the time had arisen from an over production, then increasing the quantity of money would not give a salutary remedy; but if the low prices had arisen from a restriction of the quantity of money, then a relaxation of the quantity of money would give to the country the relief required?—Certainly.

17543. Your lordship was of opinion that those who ascribed the low price of agricultural produce at that time to over production and diminished consumption, spoke trash; your lordship still retains that opinion, though you do not recollect that you used that expression?—I do not recollect using the expression; but I recollect thinking at the time that it was a mistaken position.

17544. Mr. *Cayley*.] The higher prices, and that which was described as prosperity by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1824 and 1825, came to an end somewhere about the end of 1825 or the beginning of 1826, did it not?—The prosperity, as it is termed, ended in what is now known by the name of the bubble year, when the extreme disposition of all classes to imprudent speculation is still in the recollection of everybody.

17545. Did not what your lordship has described as the bubble year end in what has been called the panic?—Yes.

17546. Perhaps your lordship would state to the Committee what you consider to be the causes which led to the panic of 1825?—The prosperity, as it has been termed, led, as is generally the case, to what might be called over speculation or a mania for imprudent adventures; that brought with it, as it naturally would do, in the first instance, failures of some of those extravagant projects which induced others to take fright, and a sort of *sauve qui peut* took place among all those speculators, and the whole came to the ground with great confusion and loss, both of property and of the commercial character of the country, which was connected with it. I do not know that any particular cause could be assigned to it.

17547. Does your lordship consider that this panic would have occurred, if it had not been for those propositions of Lord Londonderry in 1822, stimulating a re-issue of 1*l*. notes and a greater issue of paper?—It may, undoubtedly, have contributed to it; facilities may have been given at one time which were afterwards to be withdrawn; but such fluctuations will take place in the commercial pursuits of this country; I have seen many of them in the course of my life, though none to the same extent as that which took place in 1825. It may be said to a certain extent to exist in the present year, and it is what the human character excited by desire of gain and of profit is always liable to, and which will recur at periods in every country. It is not peculiar to this country; it has existed to a much more remarkable extent in America. Wherever there is freedom of action there occasionally intemperate excitement will exist, and which is not always to be ascribed to any particular causes.

17548. Your lordship has stated that of which no one has any doubt, that individual speculations will frequently fail; but can your lordship point to any great general calamities among the productive classes, within your recollection, which were not produced in some respect by some fluctuations of the currency?—I think that people are apt to look to something in the currency, and to conclude that those are the causes, just as some people think that all changes of the weather come with the changes of the moon. But I believe that that is philosophically a mistaken view, and that those changes and fluctuations will happen sometimes without reference to any alteration in the value of money. As I have said before, there have been more in America than in almost any country I know; and I am not sensible that they have been produced, of late at least, by any alterations of the currency.

17549. Confining yourself to this country, you stated that in 1821 the currency was the cause of the commercial adversity of that day?—I think the alteration

ration of the currency from the period when it was determined to look towards the resumption of cash payments up to several years after the payment in specie was established, and the country had got quietly into that system, the change was so great and so extensive in its operation as to be mainly the cause of the changes that then took place. There may have been other co-existing causes, but I think the currency was mainly concerned in them.

17550. And the distress of 1815 and 1816 might have been equally attributable to the anticipation of the Bill of 1819, as the distress of 1821, was attributable to the Act finally passing?—As I said before, my recollection does not serve me very well for particular periods; but during the whole of those transactions there were constant contractions and relaxations of the currency that had at different times various effects. But I cannot charge my memory with the particular periods, and assign any particular cause for the changes that took place.

17551. Perhaps your lordship remembers two or three distinct periods of great commercial embarrassment, viz. 1793, 1797, and 1810?—I do not at present recollect them.

17552. Your lordship does not remember what was done by Mr. Pitt, in 1793, to relieve the embarrassment of 1793?—I believe, in 1793, the remedy was an emission of exchequer bills, which was the nostrum for all commercial difficulties at that time. Whenever any difficulty presented itself to Parliament in Mr. Pitt's time, an issue of exchequer bills was generally the remedy, or in other words, private individuals were enabled, when private credit became unsettled, to make use of the credit of the Government, which fortunately remained perfect.

17553. It was in fact an enlargement of the currency?—It has been a much disputed question to what extent certain things constitute currency. An exchequer bill has been said to be, and it to a certain extent acts as a currency; it is not an enlargement strictly of that which is a legal tender in payment, but the main use of an exchequer bill is what I have before stated, namely, that wherever you come in a state of discredit, the persons who happen to have over traded whose personal credit is not of the highest, are the first to feel the want of credit. Then Government came in to give them the exchequer bills, or in other words, the credit of the country, upon a deposit of merchandise or upon a deposit of some values which enabled them to give security for it.

17554. Should you say that the re-issue of the 1*l.* notes and the larger issue of the Bank of England which was promoted by the measures of the Government at the end of 1822, were inconsistent with the security of the standard of value which was established in 1819?—I always thought that the keeping out the small notes was incompatible with the security of the currency. At the same time I was always sensible that the withdrawing them was at the time and has continued to be a cause of considerable difficulty. As far as I recollect the discussion upon the small notes, I always stated it to be a question of convenience against safety; that it was very convenient to have them out; that it was convenient peculiarly for the farmer and for the landed interest, but that it was inconsistent with the safety and the maintenance of the standard.

17555. Does your lordship mean, by inconsistent with the safety of the standard, that it promoted a larger issue of paper, which large issue of paper promoted an increase of prices, which increase of prices would probably drive the gold abroad, and so deprive the bank of that medium into which their notes were convertible?—I mean by its being inconsistent with safety, that it first of all prevented the co-existence of the metallic money for the same purpose, and that paper being used as the medium of circulation for any number of years of quiet time, the moment a check came either to its credit or to any other circumstances which might show it to be redundant, there was an absence of coin into which it could conveniently and suddenly be converted, and there was further a constant recurrence of misery to the poorer classes in the country who held this paper, and who were suffering from the bankruptcies of the country banks, they being totally incompetent to judge of the security of the persons emitting it, and that the whole together was a system extremely unsafe.

17556. Would your lordship say, as you have described the Act of 1819 to have been one passed in ignorance, that the measure of Lord Londonderry and the Government in 1822, in their promotion of a large issue upon the present standard of value was also passed in ignorance of its consequences?—I do not impute to the parties ignorance; but I say that, during the whole of that period, it seems to me that neither Parliament nor the minister of the day were

The Right Hon. Lord *Ashburton*.

17 June 1836.

thoroughly aware of the consequences of the different changes that took place in the course of what is called the tampering with money, or tampering with the currency: that they were generally measures taken for the relief of some immediate difficulty, and that it is but lately that the public have come really to understand the working of those questions. Then I should say also, that the man who principally led public opinion upon those subjects, Mr. Ricardo, who was certainly entitled by his very remarkable talents to lead opinion, ultimately led them into what I should call an erroneous view of the subject. I think the minister and the Parliament were mainly guided by Mr. Ricardo in the final settlement of the question of currency.

17557. Would your lordship state, with respect to what has been termed the panic of 1825, that the proximate cause of the panic was the exportation of gold, which led to a very rapid withdrawal of the Bank of England notes from the middle to the close of 1825?—I think not. The drain upon the Bank of England, in 1825, as far as I can recollect it, was not all caused by the exportation of gold. I do not know that there may not have been, in the early part of 1825, an exportation of gold; but as far as my recollection serves me, the great drain upon the Bank of England was for the purpose of enabling the country banks, that were solid to withdraw the gold, for the purposes of showing their own strength; and in fact making provision for their own timidity, for their own fears. The Bank of England was drained, because some country banks having failed, others were suddenly called upon, and others being called upon, all thought they might be called upon, and there was a general disposition in all those who could command bullion to apply to the Bank of England for it. You will find that in March 1825, there was bullion in the Bank of England for 8,150,000*l.* In June it had been reduced to 5,400,000*l.* In September, to 3,400,000*l.*; and in December, to 1,200,000*l.* Therefore, there was, in the beginning of 1825, it appears, as much bullion as exists at present in the bank, with diminished liabilities. So that the bank had, in the beginning of 1825, in fact, in proportion to its liabilities, a larger amount of bullion and coin than it now has. A much larger amount than it had a month or two ago. And though the lowest point here given is 1,260,000*l.*, we know, in fact, from the Committee that sat on the bank charter, that the 1,260,000*l.* was reduced almost, if not quite, to nothing. The bank, in fact, may be said to have been drained. That drain was for the purpose of meeting the apprehensions of the country banks, who were solvent, lest they should be called upon, and not for the purposes of exportation. And it is for that reason that I pressed what was afterwards adopted in the last bank charter, namely, that the country banks should, so long as the Bank of England paid in specie, be by law permitted to tender in payment Bank of England notes, which I hold to be the principal ground of security for the present system of banking, and the security against the recurrence of that very species of panic which then took place. I know that it has been held to be, by some, a ground of insecurity. In my opinion, it is the principal ground of security for the present system of banking.

17558. Mr. *Attwood.*] Does that account which your lordship read, which states 1,200,000*l.* as the stock in December 1825, state it to have been at the end of December or the beginning of December?—It is the average of the quarter ending in December, so that it does not give the lowest period of the quarter, but it gives the average of the quarter.

17559. Do you recollect the month in which the panic took place?—I should think that it must have been from about May till August or September.

17560. The failures called the panic took place in the middle of December. Perhaps your Lordship recollects the evidence of Mr. Harman, stating, that at the end of November 1825, before the panic, the whole stock of bullion in the cellars of the bank was half a million before any failures took place in London?—I do not recollect that.

17561. Mr. *Cayley.*] Does your lordship remember any panic in fact that did occur till December 1825?—I do not recollect the precise month.

17562. And does your lordship remember, that as far as the productive interests were concerned, there was no appearance of a panic, and no apparent desire upon the part of the country banks to drain the gold from the bank till November or December 1825?—I should rather say earlier than that; but I cannot speak to it with precision.

17563. Your lordship's opinion that the drain from the bank was occasioned by

The Right Hon. Lord *Ashburton*.

17 June 1836.

by the demand of the country banks rests mainly upon the supposed fact that the drain from the country banks began at an early period of 1825?—Not at an early period, but at a later period than the spring of 1825. At the same time I should say that all that mania for speculation, and that prosperity, as it was called, began to break up before the actual failures. The failures of the banks were the result of an anterior panic, because it was the pull upon them, the draught upon them, which first of all brought them down, and afterwards brought the bank of England into the state to which it was brought; but the panic must have begun before the failures of the private banks, because the failures of the private banks were the consequence of the panic. Whenever a difficulty of that sort arises, of course the weakest houses go first.

17564. Was it not the fact that the breaking of one particular house may be said to have started the panic in the country?—Of course in all those cases it begins with one house, and naturally with that house which is the weakest.

17565. Perhaps your lordship is acquainted with the fact, that in March 1824 the stock of bullion in the bank was 13,810,000*l.*; that in June it was 12,887,000*l.*; in September it was 11,787,000*l.*; in December it was 10,721,000*l.* Then in March 1825 it was 8,779,000*l.*; in June it was 6,331,000*l.*; in September it was 3,634,000*l.*; and in December it was 1,260,000*l.* Now does not it appear from that statement, when the stock of bullion in the bank was nearly 14,000,000*l.* in March 1824, and had been reduced to 8,000,000*l.* in March 1825, even before any prospect of embarrassment had occurred, that there had been a regular drain of gold going on from the bank?—Taking for granted that the figures are correct in the question, there had undoubtedly been a drain.

17566. Would you consider that that drain from the bank was for export?—I think most likely that the drain which took place before confidence began to shake, when there was no disposition on the part of the country bankers to fortify themselves by bringing specie into their vaults, was a drain resulting from demand from abroad.

17567. Did the country banks ever begin or ever start the idea of fortifying themselves against a run till November 1825?—As I said before, I cannot recollect the date.

17568. If they did not, then the drain of gold from the bank would still have been for export after March 1825, as it had been before?—I look upon it that that proportion of the drain from the bank which took place before any apprehension with respect to credit existed in the country, was in all probability a drain for the purpose of sending abroad; and if the amount of bullion be as it has been stated, it would prove that the bank at that period had more bullion in proportion to its liabilities than it need have had, and that, therefore, it was a wholesome and natural drain of bullion to go abroad.

17569. Did it prove that in 1825 they had more bullion than was sufficient to meet the outstanding demands upon them?—I think if they had at that period 13,000,000*l.*, as stated in the question, they had more than they need have had, and that, therefore, the drain of a portion was a wholesome drain.

17570. Would not that continuous drain of gold, beginning in March 1824, and proceeding steadily till November 1825, be also symptomatic that there was a higher range of prices existing, in consequence of an increased issue of paper, than was consistent with the standard of value?—I think you attribute too much to the occasional fluctuations of paper and coin at the bank, that you are disposed too much to believe that they are always operating upon prices, particularly where they are of a fluctuating nature. The bank has sometimes a large amount of specie, and it is drawn out and its paper becomes reduced. I do not mean to say that the amount of paper out for any length of time has not its effect upon prices, but that taking it from month to month you cannot, merely because you see a variation in the relative proportion of gold and of paper in the Bank of England, therefore conclude that to be the cause of any given state of prices in all parts of the country immediately following. In the case of permanent changes, altered prices undoubtedly follow; but I think you are too much led to ascribe the sudden fall of prices to any accidental state of accounts that you find in the Bank of England.

17571. The questions referred to some permanent change which was intended to have been effected by Lord Londonderry in 1822: would you say that it was a necessary consequence of a large issue of paper, leading to increased prices, to

The Right Hon. Lord *Ashburton*.

17 June 1836.

drain the gold from the bank?—The tendency of a large issue of paper is undoubtedly to drain the gold from the bank. In what manner it affects prices in the meantime I could hardly say; but the moment there is more paper out than is wanted, the paper is exchanged for gold and the gold goes out of the country. The bank being liable to pay in specie, they cannot hold for any length of time more paper out than is required.

17572. There was a large issue of paper in 1823, 1824 and 1825 contemporaneously with the drain for bullion?—I have not looked at the figures.

17573. If when Lord Londonderry promoted that larger issue in 1822, he had also altered the standard of value and depreciated it so as to have adapted it to a larger issue of paper, does your lordship think, then, that that larger issue of paper could have been circulated consistently with the safety of the standard?—The questions refer to what Lord Londonderry did and the circumstances connected with it, which are out of my recollection. I might mislead the Committee in speaking very positively upon it.

17574. Supposing the amount of circulation of the Bank of England, which was considered consistent with the safety of the present standard, to be 20,000,000*l.*, if the bank were to issue 25,000,000*l.*, the probable consequence would be, within a certain number of months or a year, or a year and a half, that the gold would be driven abroad. Is that your opinion?—The gold would be driven abroad. In fact, the bank cannot keep its paper out. The hypothesis supposes what can hardly take place. The bank cannot keep out its paper, being liable to pay all demands upon it in specie, if the holders of that paper have an interest in claiming specie for it.

17575. But supposing the bank wished to circulate 25,000,000*l.*, and the Government and Parliament were to depreciate the standard so as to be equivalent to the issue of 25,000,000*l.*, could that 25,000,000*l.* then be issued as securely and as much in consistency with the safety of the standard as the previous issue had been in consistency with the previous standard?—I think not; I do not know what is meant by depreciating the standard for the purpose of enabling the bank to keep out paper. If they were to make the 1*l.* sterling to consist of 15*s.* worth of gold instead of 20*s.*, then undoubtedly the 20,000,000*l.* of paper would be equivalent to the 15,000,000*l.* If the 1*l.* were made worth 10*s.*, then the 20,000,000*l.* of paper in the depreciated currency would be equal to 10,000,000*l.*

17576. A larger issue of paper would then as safely ride upon the depreciated standard, as a smaller issue of paper upon the previous standard?—It would not, in fact, be larger; it would be a larger nominal amount.

17577. But that larger nominal issue would lead to a higher nominal rate of prices?—It is not the issue for the reduction of the standard that would lead to it. If the 1*l.* was only worth 10*s.* it would pass only for 10*s.* in exchange for commodities.

17578. In whatever mode the prices were altered, if, previous to the alteration, prices were 10*s.*, subsequently to the alteration the prices would be 15*s.*?—Yes.

17579. Then if the Bank of England find it impossible to issue more than they do upon the present standard of value, and if prices do depend to a considerable extent upon the issues of the Bank of England, would you say that the prices were necessarily kept down by the preservation of the present standard of value?—Prices are undoubtedly kept down, if you choose to use the phrase, by the present standard of value. If you alter the standard of value, either in increase or diminution, you will have the prices vary with it; because, as long as paper is paid in specie the prices can only be a certain amount of precious metals; and therefore, if you make the 1*l.* to consist of a smaller amount of gold, say one-half, of course the price of commodities will give you two half-sovereigns for the same thing for which it would otherwise give you one half-sovereign; or if you make it equal to a crown, the alteration would be in the proportion of one-fourth: you begin by defining what is price, namely, that it is a definite amount of that which by law is determined to be a legal tender, and if you increase or diminish that, you get for all commodities an increased or diminished quantity of it.

17580. Then those who may be led to expect a higher range of prices than the present, upon the present standard of value, will have their hopes and their expectations end in disappointment probably?—If they look to any augmentation

401

The Right Hon. Lord *Ashburton.*

17 June 1836.

or diminution arising out of what, to use a common phrase, is called tampering with the currency, they undoubtedly will; and I hope they long will be disappointed. Prices may be affected by other causes, but prices that are to be altered by merely altering the denomination of the legal standard, are altered in name but not in substance.

17581. The question referred to an opposite state of things; that persons who expect the maintenance of a higher range of prices without an alteration of the standard, will probably be disappointed?—I do not know that they will. Without any alteration of standard we have seen the principal article of the farmer's produce, wheat, improved 50 per cent. within the last three months, and therefore I do not see any reason to pronounce that you may not see improvements in price without any alteration of the standard.

17582. Your lordship has objected to a depreciation of standard; will you be kind enough to state to the Committee, having regard to the measure of 1819, what you would have considered to be a just and equitable measure in 1819?—That is rather a difficult question to answer. When the change came in 1819 I was quite aware that great injustice was going to be done by the alteration of the standard, and the same feeling which would lead me at present to say, For God's sake, whatever the country does, keep national good faith in the maintenance of the standard, made me doubt in 1819 whether justice was most substantially done by giving a sort of legal authority to the depreciation that had taken place, or whether you should go back, according to Parliamentary promise, to the old legal tender of the country. It became a question very much of degree; if the depreciation in this country had been the same as it was in some others, in Russia for instance, where the paper had become as four to one, a return to the old standard would have caused obvious difficulty and obvious injustice; a consideration which would probably have induced Parliament to say, We will not go back; but in the case of a depreciation of 25, 30 or 40 per cent., or whatever any person may estimate it at, it became a very delicate and difficult question what was the duty of Parliament. I certainly at the time hesitated a good deal upon that question, but the House of Commons were very strongly decided upon going back to the old standard, and there were great moral considerations in favour of that view of the question, and although I stated occasionally my opinion and suggested difficulties, I did not feel confident enough to make a serious question of it at the time, but I was quite sensible of the injustice that was done and which no course would have wholly avoided.

17583. Subsequently, your lordship stated some other opinions very much in confirmation of what you have stated now, that you would in 1819, upon the resumption of cash payments, have resorted to a depreciated standard?—If the feeling of Parliament and the country had gone with it I should have thought that much might have been said in favour of a depreciation by bringing the pound to 15*s.* if the mind of the country had been so disposed; but the strong opinion and the moral feeling being both the other way I thought there was much to be said for coming back to the standard. It was to my mind a very doubtful question, essentially it rested on a consideration of degree. If, as was the case in Russia, the depreciation had gone to the extent of four to one, it would clearly be the grossest injustice under those circumstances to return to the original standard. A question on that subject was proposed by the government of Russia some years ago to persons in whose opinions they had confidence, and the opinion was unanimous that it would be a greater injustice to endeavour to return to the old standard than to sanction the depreciation by law. In the Brazils lately the depreciation, though not to the same extent, was very large, and having taken place, I certainly, upon being consulted, gave the same opinion. It is essentially, as I have stated, a question of degree, and the true question in the year 1819 to be solved was, whether the depreciation was of the extent to justify a permanent alteration in the currency. Mr. Ricardo's opinion mainly induced Parliament to undervalue the existing depreciation, and the moral feelings of Parliament and of the country were strongly adverse to any measure of the sort, which, if adopted, would always have been imperfectly understood in the country.

17584. Do you think that the moral feelings of Parliament, and of the country, would have been so acted upon if they had been aware of the circumstances as they really were, and had not been misled by Mr. Ricardo?—I certainly think that the decision which was then come to was mainly connected with Parliament

The Right Hon Lord *Ashburton*.

17 June 1836.

undervaluing the extent of the depreciation; what, if they had been fully aware of it they might have done, I will not pretend to say.

17585. If the question were to recur, with our subsequent greater knowledge upon the subject, do you think that Parliament would be induced to adopt the standard they did adopt in 1819?—I think it very doubtful. It is difficult to say what under those circumstances might be the determination.

17586. Subsequent to the panic of 1825, was there a less Bank of England issue than had been before?—No; as far as my recollection serves me, when the panic first began, the bank taking fright, did, as they always do, begin by drawing in their circulation; as the panic increased, upon better advice, they put out their paper, and more especially, as is generally known, they put out 1*l.* notes, to the extent of about a million and a half.

17587. The question referred to what took place after those temporary measures had succeeded in putting an end to the immediate state of panic, subsequent to the middle of 1826. Subsequently to that period has there been a less circulation of the Bank of England?—According to the return I have, the highest amount of the circulation of the Bank of England was in the quarter ending December 1825, when it amounted to 25 millions and a half. It was gradually brought down, but after the quarter of June 1826, it did not then materially vary. I find it ran from 19 to 20 millions; there is not much above half a million variation. At the same time the bank's treasure went on increasing, and was up at ten millions, and continued so many months.

17588. And now the Bank of England's circulation varies from 17 to 18 millions and a half?—I believe it does; but that is the circulation exclusive of the deposits. The deposits are as dangerous a part of the circulation as the notes.

17589. Do the deposits, in fact, act as a circulating medium operating upon prices?—When we talk of circulating medium, there are many things act, to a certain extent, as circulating medium, to which it is not possible to assign their specific power or operation; but as it regards the ability of the bank, I hold the deposits to be a more dangerous liability than the notes, because any one, wanting to draw specie out of the bank, will almost invariably do it by deposits, and in fact the large deposits are deposits of the bankers, and whether a banker holds his money in bank notes, or he holds it in a balance at the bank, it is equally disposable to him. In one case, if he holds it in bank notes, it goes out among the circulation of the bank; in the other, it is a liability of the bank, but, in my opinion, a liability much more likely to affect its store of specie than the notes.

17590 Is not the danger the Bank of England is in from a sudden run upon them, in consequence of this large amount of deposit, rather likely to make them cautious in their circulation than otherwise?—I think it may.

17591. If it tends to increase their caution in their circulation, it will not tend to increase their circulation?—The bank undoubtedly must look to their general liabilities.

17592. Was there considerable distress for some years subsequent to 1825?—As far as I recollect, there has been more or less of distress from that period up to within about six or seven years. We have had, the last six or seven years, considerable prosperity. The present time may be called a time of decided prosperity, but up to that period there have been occasional alternations; generally speaking, the whole of the period was more or less a period of distress.

17593. Would you state the condition of the agricultural interest to have been prosperous the last six or seven years?—No, I should say not; not prosperous; the agriculturist cannot be said to have been prosperous at almost any period since the war. He has been in more or less difficulty at different times; but I think he can hardly be said to have been in a prosperous state at any time.

17594. Do you think he is more prosperous now than he was two years ago?—He is better off now than he was six months ago, owing to the advance upon the main article of his production, which is wheat. His great depression has been the low price of wheat; that has been his fair ground of complaint; as the prices have fallen rents have in some degree also fallen; but as the tenant is generally under an engagement for a certain number of years, the relief, in the shape of reduction of rent, always comes after some degree of suffering on his part. If prices are on the rise the occupying farmer has a good bargain, and thrives. If the prices are on the decline the landlord, even the best landlord, waits a year or two to see whether things are permanently fixed lower before he comes to his reductions

reductions of rent, and therefore a period of declining of prices is necessarily a period of distress with the occupying tenant.

17595. Upon the definition you have given of prices, will it not appear that there are certain rises of price in which the farmer does not himself benefit, viz. such as are caused by a deficiency of the commodity which he supplies?—Certainly; if the rise is a rise consequent upon a bad crop of corn, he does not get a proportionate benefit.

17596. Has your lordship been led to speculate at all upon what may be considered the cause of the present rise in wheat?—I should say, first of all, that it is a revulsion of an unnaturally low price; secondly, that some apprehensions have been entertained as to the growing crop; some doubts whether so much wheat has been sown during the last autumn as usual, in consequence of the low price; but that the low price having been the result of four or five years very good crops, the apprehension that the crop of the present year is less or likely to be so, and the opinion that less has been sown; I think those are the causes which have produced the rise.

17597. Does your lordship speak from your own experience, when you say that there have been the last four or five years very heavy crops?—I should say so; I would not say very heavy crops; some of them have been very large crops, but more than average crops.

17598. If they had been more than average crops the last five or six years, would not the natural result be a large stock at present in the hands of the farmers?—I should say myself that there is a large stock, if it were not that in a committee in another place I have been examining witnesses, a great many of whom say the contrary; but I have now, not ten days ago, travelled through upwards of 300 miles of the principal corn growing counties in England, and, as far as my own observation went, and more especially among my own tenantry, I should say there is a great deal of corn in the farmers' hands.

17599. Would you say that it is over-production that has caused the present fall of price?—Any article of which you have had large crops may be said to constitute over-production, but it is the result of good crops; then you have this difficulty, that when you have for several successive years good crops, you have no vent for them otherwise than by the consumption of the country.

17600. Does your lordship remember, that in 1822, when the low prices were ascribed to over-production, and when you stated that the currency was the only question to consider in reference to the distress arising out of the low prices, that the price had fallen to 38*s*. per quarter?—I have no recollection of any such price as 38*s*. at that time; if it did exist, it could only have existed a very short time; and when I am represented to have said that over-production had nothing to do with it, that it was all currency, one is apt sometimes to use a large expression when one finds persons disposed to entertain strongly contrary erroneous opinions; one sometimes uses a larger expression than the exact truth of the case warrants. I do not know that there may not have been other causes at the time, but certainly the main causes were, in my opinion, the tampering with the currency. But in the present time, the currency has been steady now for years, and therefore I cannot ascribe either the fall of wheat or the subsequent rise of wheat to any operations upon the currency.

17601. Your lordship has alluded to certain tamperings with the currency since 1822; perhaps your lordship remembers that the 1*l*. notes came to an end in 1829?—I think so.

17602. You have stated that the withdrawal of 1*l*. notes caused considerable embarassment among the farmers?—I think it did.

17603. Then our present currency may be said to have been in full operation only since 1829?—I cannot charge my memory with the precise date, but even before the 1*l*. notes were by law driven out of the circulation, I believe the country banks had made preparation for their reduction considerably before. The manner in which the 1*l*. notes operated upon the farmers, I take it, was this,—in the small agricultural towns in England there were at those times, as there are now, small country banks, and those small country banks having the benefit of issuing their notes, were not only always ready to accommodate the farmer, but rather pressing upon him to take advances and facilities, sometimes upon his hay stock or his corn stock, or his produce; in fact, they had a strong interest to be lenders, even upon indifferent security. Then the moment you took from them the benefit of issuing their own 1*l*. notes, all their advantage in becoming

The Right Hon. Lord *Ashburton*.

17 June 1836.

lenders ceased; the consequence was, the cessation of their anxiety to give any accommodation to the farmer, and therefore the farmer found himself without that sort of facility of accommodation or circulation of his property which he was accustomed to. Whether he may not be ultimately in a better state, in not having that accommodation may be a question; but that, in point of fact, all these things have come heavily upon him. He was obliged to pay up his account, and then the fall in the price of produce, and his distresses injuring his credit, when at the very same time he had not that facility with his country banker which he usually had. Then again, the paper which was issued by the country bankers not being used, otherwise than just within the radius of the small country town where it was issued, it kept up a facility of money in districts which by the present ordinary mode of banking is not so easily reached. Any person who has watched, as I have myself, from living near a country town, necessarily done, the small operations and the money transactions of farmers, must have witnessed that state of things. But that has ceased now for some years, and I should not ascribe to it anything that has now been taking place within this year or two, but I merely mention it, as giving my reason for thinking that the reduction of the small country notes operated more upon the farmers, than it did upon any other class of persons.

17604. The Act withdrawing those notes came into operation in 1829?—I believe it did, but I rather believe that what might be called the operation of it took place earlier; that the country bankers began to draw them in, and to reduce the accommodation, of which I am speaking, before the Parliamentary operation took place.

17605. Does your lordship remember that there was a series of very wet harvests, beginning with 1828 and continuing till 1831, and that that had the effect of raising the price of wheat considerably?—I think they were bad harvests.

17606. Then in consequence of the deficiency of crop, arising from those harvests, and the higher price which resulted from them, the full effect of the last Act in the change of the currency might be concealed from the public during the years when those scarce crops existed?—I cannot speak confidently as to the crops of those years, but I think they were under the average.

17607. According to your definition of price, that it is partly operated upon by the supply and demand of the commodity, and also by the supply of money, you would conceive that the necessary consequence of a deficiency of crop would be a rise in price?—Yes; I find in looking back, that from 1824 to 1830 the prices ran very even and very well. From 1824 the prices of wheat ran as follows: from 1824 to 1830, 65*s*., 69*s*., 59*s*., 59*s*., 64*s*., 67*s*., and 66*s*. I think these are what the country would call fair prices; such prices as Parliament probably had in contemplation at the regulation of the corn laws; prices that would be fair between grower and consumer, but to what extent it may in those particular years have arisen, from any peculiarity in the seasons, I cannot say.

17608. Will you revert to the year 1822?—The average of 1822 was 47*s*. 8*d*.

17609. Is there a progressive rise from 1822 to the end of 1825 contemporaneously with the enlarged issue of that period?—There is a rise from 1822 to 1825, but nothing very extravagant; prices return to what may be considered fair prices, namely from 47*s*. to 69*s*.

17610. Supposing the price to have risen in consequence of the Act of Lord Londonderry, that increased the currency at the end of 1822; would not the greater issue on the part of the bank, which took place at the end of 1825 or beginning of 1826, prevent the sudden fall of prices?—As I said before, I do not admit that the prices follow so immediately any operations of the bank as is generally supposed. I do not think that what is done at the bank in London affects the country markets so immediately as is supposed. Undoubtedly if you establish for any length of time permanently a different standard of value, you affect prices; but I think that a person who looks at the returns of the bank and then looks at the corn market, and thinks he sees every day some correspondence between the bank issues and the corn market, makes a mistake.

17611. Your lordship is aware that there was an opinion expressed by the Committee in 1819 upon the resumption of cash payments, that the prices were not immediately affected or tested, except in a minute degree by the circulation at any one particular period of the Bank of England?—Yes.

17612. Supposing

405

17612. Supposing the wet harvests to have tended to raise the price of corn up to the year 1831; your lordship is aware that there was from 1831 to 1834 a very considerable fall each year in the price of wheat?—Yes.

17613. Until it fell very much upon a level with the prices that had existed in 1822?—I apprehend that the price of wheat during the last year was a lower price than any we have had since the war.

17614. Taking the whole year together?—I do not know; but I apprehend the average must be lower.

17615. Will your lordship have the goodness to state what you conceive to be the cause of the present high price of meat and wool?—The high price in meat has, as far as I can trace it, been partly owing to the destruction of the sheep some years ago; and latterly it has been owing to the deficiency of the means of fattening it, so that the fat meat has been out of proportion with the lean, and that therefore what is brought to market in good condition is higher in proportion to the lean stock. Then if you are looking for the reason why wheat is so low, and why meat is so high, it is, that of wheat there has been an abundant crop; of meat there has been a deficiency, from the circumstances I have stated. It is owing to the operation of demand and supply, but there is not the same price for lean stock that there is for fat stock. Then if you look to wool, first of all, the price of wool has been affected by the loss of sheep; there was one year very disastrous indeed to the breed of sheep; but generally speaking, they have been bad years; of course the price of wool is partly affected by that and partly by the improved state of the manufactures; the supply has been short, and the manufactures have been very thriving.

17616. Would you consider that the increase in the issues of the joint stock banks that has taken place within the last year or 18 months has had any thing to do with the increase of the prices?—I am not aware that it has; I cannot say that I have very much followed up the working of those joint stock banks, but I do not see why their issues should operate differently from the issues of the ordinary country banks.

17617. May not the joint stock banks be considered more powerful bodies and more capable of acting independently of the Bank of England?—I have heard lately a good deal about joint stock banks, but I have not looked sufficiently into the subject to see in what manner they are working.

17618. Your lordship has stated that you conceive that 1*l.* notes could not be issued consistently with the safety of the present standard; is there any other standard of value which you would consider more generally secure for all the interests of the country, for the banks in particular, than the present gold standard?—My opinion is, that the small notes cannot be kept out, consistently with the safety of a metallic standard; I have always thought that a silver standard or a mixed standard was safer than a single gold standard, and of course that the paper, under those circumstances, would be attended with less danger; but I cannot say that I think small notes would be safe even with a silver standard.

17619. Would the currency be on a safer footing generally if it had to rely for its convertibility upon a silver standard or a conjoint standard of silver and gold than resting solely upon a gold standard?—I have always thought that it would, and the more I have considered the subject the more decided my opinion is that it would.

17620. Was the ancient standard of the country, to which we were supposed to revert in 1819, a standard of gold, or of gold and silver conjoined?—The old standard was conjointly silver and gold, and was so up to the year 1798; as late as the year 1798 the standard of the country was gold and silver.

17621. Was not the standard altered by the Act of Lord Liverpool, which came in fact into operation by the Bill of 1819, that Act of Lord Liverpool passing in 1816?—It was altered by Act of Parliament in the year 1798. In consequence of somebody disputing the state of the law upon this subject, I have looked back to the several Acts, and the case is this; in the year 1774 an Act was passed to prevent the common silver coin being a tender above 25*l.*, otherwise than by weight; it was passed, I think, for one year, or it was passed for a short period; it was renewed again a year or two afterwards, and extended to the year 1783; in the year 1783 it expired altogether. It was not renewed, so that after 1783, in truth, any person might have paid his debts in the depreciated silver; from 1783 to 1798 the crooked sixpences were a good legal tender; as the

The Right Hon. Lord *Ashburton*.

17 June 1836.

Government did not coin silver, it could not be produced in any great amount, and therefore no inconvenience resulted from that state of the law, because though silver was depreciated in the proportion of five to eight, and what should have been worth eight was depreciated to five, yet as the Government did not coin, no practical inconvenience resulted from that state of the law with respect to the legal tender; but up to the year 1798 it was competent to any person to bring gold and silver to the mint, as it is now competent to any person to bring gold only to the mint; and bringing silver to the mint, coin was returnable for it at the rate of 62*s.* for the pound troy; and for gold at the rate of 3*l.* 17*s.* $10\frac{1}{2}$*d.* the ounce; that was the law till 1798. In 1798 there had taken place that alteration in the relative value of gold and silver, which induced people to send silver to the mint. The Act of 1798 says, "And whereas His Majesty has appointed a Committee of His Privy Council, to take into consideration the state of the coins of this kingdom, and the present establishment and constitution of His Majesty's mint, and inconvenience may arise from any coinage of silver until such regulations may be framed as shall appear necessary; and whereas from the present low price of silver bullion, owing to temporary circumstances, a small quantity of silver bullion has been brought to the mint to be coined, and there is reason to suppose that a still further quantity may be brought, and it is therefore necessary to suspend the coining of silver for the present; Be it therefore Enacted, that from and after the passing of this Act, no silver bullion shall be coined at the mint." That Act was partly to continue an Act for preventing the legal tender of depreciated silver, and then it stops the access to the mint for any person bringing silver there; so that up to the passing of that Act in 1798, in point of fact a debtor might acquit himself of his debt either by gold or silver, by bringing gold or silver to be coined in the mint.

17622. The Act which went to suspend the coinage of silver was during the suspension of cash payments?—It was after the suspension of cash payments, which proves that there could not have been any great depreciation a year after the Act of Suspension, because the small difference in the silver induced people then to bring silver to the Mint.

17623. But the depreciation you have stated then to have been in the ratio of five to eight?—I spoke of a depreciation in the silver coin, that the sixpences, shillings, &c., from rubbing and wearing, had become depreciated to that extent.

17624. Does your lordship recollect the Act which passed in 1816, introduced by Lord Liverpool, with reference to a conjoint standard of silver and gold, and by which the silver standard was put an end to?—Yes; but it is a mistake to suppose that silver was not put an end to before; it was put an end to by the Act of 1798; it was not put an end to permanently, but it professed to stop it for the present, till the whole question had been looked into by the Privy Council.

17625. Silver continued a legal tender after 1798?—Silver by weight; but from 1783 to 1798 it was a legal tender by tale.

17626. Before the Restriction Act it was a legal tender by tale to the extent of 25*l.*?—It was a legal tender by tale before 1773 to any amount. From 1773 to 1783 by tale, to the extent of 25*l.*, and by weight to any amount; from 1783 to 1798 it was again an unlimited tender by weight and by tale, and after 1798 the mint was closed to silver, and the outstanding coin was again a tender by weight without limit, and by tale to the extent of 25*l.* So this matter remained until regulated by our present Mint Law.

17627. Your lordship was examined before a Committee of the Privy Council on coinage in 1828?—I was; that was not a Committee sitting upon the general question of the coinage referred to in the Act of Parliament; but it sat, I believe, at the desire of Mr. Huskisson, to consider the simple question of a silver coinage.

17628. Do you abide by the opinions you entertained in 1828 with respect to the advantage of a conjoint standard of silver and gold, over a gold standard alone?—Yes, I do; I had not read them from that time till yesterday; but yesterday I read my opinion over, and I do not see any thing to alter in it.

17629. Your opinion in favour of silver is, that it gives greater security to the bank and greater facility to the public?—That it gives greater security and facility to the bank; first of all, that its main advantage consists in its being the medium of money for all other countries. There is always a disadvantage in departing from the medium of circulation of other countries, as there must always naturally be a greater facility of procuring that which being in circulation all over

the world you are sure of being able to procure. One great desideratum in the regulation of the bank is to preserve this facility, and to do away with the necessity of those sudden jerks and changes which the bank, for its own safety, is occasionally obliged to make.

17630. Your lordship stated, in 1828, that whatever gave facility to the bank, gave also facility to the country?—Surely; the bank is always exposed occasionally to get out of its usual proportions, between its circulation and its treasure, and it rights itself by contraction of its issues, or some other corresponding operation; all these operations act prejudicially to the industry of the country, because the persons transacting their ordinary business know nothing of those necessities of the bank as they arise; but they are exposed to their successive remedial operations; therefore the greater facility that you give to the bank, and the greater evenness consequent in their operations, the less necessity there will be for those sudden changes, and the less they will disturb the general industry of the country.

17631. Would your lordship say, that by the Act of 1816, which put an end to the conjoint standard of silver and gold, the debtor having had the privilege, before the suspension of cash payments, of acquitting himself of his debt, either in silver or gold, that the debtor had been still further a loser than he had been by the simple Act of 1819 and its accompanying measures?—As is well known to the Committee, though undoubtedly the debtor had his option, yet from the manner in which the proportions were regulated, it was his interest to pay in gold, and, therefore, in fact, gold became the ordinary medium of payment. Gold being the ordinary medium of payment, and as gold was the compulsory medium of payment under the new law, it was gold then and it remains gold now; so that in that respect the standard may be said to be the same; but undoubtedly the debtor is deprived of that option which he had, and that option, which if you had not touched the law at all, and left it as it was, would appear now to make a difference of from four to five per cent., inasmuch as he might have paid in silver at 62*d.* the ounce, which silver he can now procure at from 59*d.* to 60*d.*, and therefore to that extent undoubtedly the debtor was prejudiced by that Act. I do not know whether that change of value between gold and silver had taken place when the regulation of the standard was last enacted; I do not know whether Parliament were aware of the change at the time, or whether that alteration has taken place subsequently.

17632. Mr. *Attwood.*] In the Bullion Report of 1810, it was stated that silver had then commenced to take a relatively low rate as compared with gold?—It seems to me that mistakes are constantly made when people say that one of the metals is lowered as compared with the other. It is said silver is lowered, and therefore silver is a more fluctuating article, and therefore more unfit for a standard of value. But it is not at all proved whether the real fluctuation has not taken place in the improved value of gold, and not in the lessened value of silver, because, as they are two metals, compared with each other it is not at all certain which has moved, whether it has been the gold or the silver, and there is much reason to suppose that the gold has increased in value and that it is not the silver that has diminished; for, in the first place, this country began by making a demand upon the rest of the world for 30,000,000*l.* or whatever the amount is of gold that we wanted for the purpose of circulation. Now lately, America, by altering her standard, has taken to the practical standard of gold. All these are circumstances which have produced a great demand for gold, and it does not at all follow because silver appears now to be cheaper, that it is not in point of fact gold that has become dearer. The comparison being between the two metals, I think we should judge rashly if we were to say with confidence which it is that has moved, but in point of fact, undoubtedly, there is this alteration in the proportions of the standard, that any man who owed a debt in old time, having to discharge it now, would fairly have a right to complain that you had taken away from him that which was part of his contract at the time that he made it, that not only the debtor would now be able to pay with an advantage of from four to five per cent., but then you have further taken from him, which is important, his option, because he had then an option. If a man owed a pound sterling, his contract implied that he had the option of paying in whichever at the time was the cheapest of the two metals, so that in that respect you have, by withdrawing this option, increased, to the prejudice of the debtor, the standard of value.

The Right Hon. Lord *Ashburton.*

17 June 1836.

17633. Mr. *Cayley.*] Was it not also an advantage to the bank having the option of paying in either of the metals?—I think it is an advantage to the bank.

17634. During the existence of the conjoint standard of silver and gold, had not the bank also an additional facility, namely, the law against the export of coin, and against the melting of coin?—Yes, that was something; with respect to the greater facility with which gold leaves the coffers of the bank, it must be remembered how much more easily it is transported. I apprehend that, if any great speculator wants now to send a large sum of money abroad, he finds his easiest mode is to go to the bank and take out his gold, and send it abroad. If there is any disturbance in any countries, and for purposes of war money is transported, gold is the easiest supply; and for whatever purpose gold is wanted, it is the Bank of England that is the place that every body comes to. If any person abroad or at home wants any large sum of gold, the coin of this country is taken and thrown into the melting pot. As you take nothing for seignorage, they get the gold metal with a stamp, which is a security for the weight and for the assay; and the consequence is, that every demand for gold, for all parts of the world, comes to this country, and, by acting upon our exclusive medium of circulation, forces upon the bank those fluctuations which are so much deprecated, and which come so destructively, by reaction, on the general business of the country.

17635. During the existence of the law against the melting of coin, and against the export, did not the bank feel it a great protection to them, and a great security against the risks of runs?—It operated to this extent: first, that respectable persons, and houses of character and importance, would not be tempted in any shape to violate the law. The interlopers were generally Jews, who were the great money brokers of the world; but they would not violate the law, except upon terms which would secure them from the danger of doing so. As the coin was liable to be seized at the port in going out, a man made his calculation to see whether he could make half per cent, or three-quarters per cent, or whatever he estimated was the amount of risk in sending the coin out. Now to that extent it was a security to the bank demands for this purpose, and it acted in this respect as a seignorage to the same amount.

17636. Did it operate to that extent as a relaxation of the standard of value?—Whether it can be said to have operated as a relaxation of the standard of value, it operated to that extent against the coin going out of the country.

17637. And to that extent it gave the Bank of England a greater security in the issue of their notes?—Yes. They had so far a greater security, that any thing that tended to check the egress of the coin gave a greater security to the bank against being left in difficulties.

17638. Is your lordship aware that the Bullion Committee took that into their contemplation, and estimated it as a relaxation to the extent of two per cent.?—I was not aware that they had, but it certainly had that effect. I should think two per cent. rather high.

17639. Then, although the nominal ancient standard was 5*s.* 2*d.*, yet if there was this virtual relaxation of the standard to the extent of two per cent., the virtual standard and the practical standard might be considered rather more, nearer 5*s.* 4*d.* than 5*s.* 2*d.*?—No; I do not think you could take it at that, because the moment you have to bring it into the country, you can only bring it in and coin it at its mint value. It certainly gave a security to the bank against its being sent out of the country; but I do not see how you could fairly take that as a diminution of the standard of value, because, if you want to create pounds sterling, you can only do it at 3*l.* 17*s.* 10½*d.*

17640. But if the bank felt itself more secure, and would be therefore induced to issue a greater quantity of paper, permanently, in consequence of that security, would not that have a permanent effect upon prices?—I should say, that the bank issues were safer to a certain extent, from the circumstance mentioned; and that, as far as the bank issues are supposed to affect prices, to that extent it affected prices; but it is not easy to define that by any precise amount. It was certainly a security which the bank had in those days, which it has not now. I think Parliament judged rightly in removing all impediments, and not forcing into the hands of the smuggler that which would be done by somebody; but the free exportation of coin alters very much the condition of the bank, and increases its insecurity. It should also be taken into consideration, that the means of defence of the bank is very much diminished by the single standard of gold, because, under a conjoint standard, if the bank contemplates any great

demand upon it, from the fact of gold being wanted, it has the means of defending itself by paying out the metal which is not wanted; and that option on the part of the bank is a great protection.

17641. Mr. *Attwood.*] Would it be your opinion, that those laws would operate, during a period of adverse exchanges, to retain a greater amount of money in circulation than could be obtained without those laws?—I think they would.

17642. As far as that, the effect would be a higher range of prices?—Yes.

17643. You mentioned the alteration made in America, America having taken to the gold standard; can you state what the alteration is that America has made, which introduces gold into the circulation of America?—I do not exactly know. There is a report from the American secretary to the treasury, which I have not read. The change is altering the proportions between the metals, but to what extent I do not know.

17644. Does it, to some extent, alter the value of the gold coin in circulation in America?—As I have not followed up the course of the American Government, I do not know whether they continue to permit foreign coins to circulate at a certain rate, or whether they confine the circulation to their own coins. But in fact they have put a lower value in the coinage upon gold, and consequently made it that metal which it is for the interest of the debtor to discharge his engagements in.

17645. That is, by putting less gold into the gold coin?—Supposing the option to be paying fifteen for one, and the alteration of the law is, that the debtor shall pay $15\frac{1}{2}$ for one. If you may pay fifteen pounds of silver for one pound of gold, or if you are obliged to pay $15\frac{1}{2}$ of silver for one of gold, it alters the fact of its being your interest to pay in one metal rather than the other. In that manner they have made the alteration; but in what proportion I do not know. I have been told that it is six per cent.

17646. But to some extent America has depreciated the gold coin, for the purpose of drawing gold coin into circulation in America?—Yes.

17647. Your lordship has stated that the old standard, which was intended to be restored by the Act of 1819, was not in effect restored by silver being abolished as a legal tender, and that by that means the standard has been in fact made a higher standard to an extent which might be taken as five per cent. than the ancient standard of the country?—Yes.

17648. Did that vitiate and violate all existing contracts to the extent of five per cent., supposing the extent of the difference to be five per cent.?—It interfered with existing contracts to that extent.

17649. Did that cause the debtor upon a contract, owing 100*l.*, to pay by that alteration five per cent. more than by the old standard he could be called upon to pay?—I think he was. Perhaps not more than at the time the debt was contracted; but more than, supposing the payment to have been prolonged to the present period, he would now be obliged to pay, if the law had not interfered; for what he now pays 100*l.* he might have paid with 95*l.*, supposing no alteration had taken place in the law. If he were put back with the legal tender, such as it existed before 1798, that would have been the case between debtor and creditor.

17650. Therefore the debtor upon a contract, which bears date from 1816, is now required to pay five per cent. more than he would have been required to pay if the old standard of the country had been established?—Not 1816; 1798 was the date. After 1798 no silver could be carried to the mint.

17651. Your lordship is aware that silver was a legal tender down to 1816?—From 1798 it was no legal tender above 25*l.*, and in point of fact, you could not create any pounds sterling by carrying silver to the mint, because the mint was closed to silver.

17652. Your lordship has stated that silver was always a legal tender by weight down to 1816?—Not silver; the old coin was; the silver coin was a legal tender by weight down to 1816.

17653. Was that Act of 1798 a temporary Act, intended merely to take place during the consideration of the whole subject of coinage by the Privy Council?—So it appears by the preamble.

17654. Your lordship would consider that every contract now existing and bearing date before 1816 must be founded upon a lower standard than the pre-

The Right Hon. Lord *Ashburton*.

17 June 1836.

sent standard. That is, if it was dated after 1798 it would have been the lower standard which existed during the war; if it bore date before 1798, it would have been the lower standard of metal which existed at that time?—Yes.

17655. Therefore every existing contract is now demandable in an amount of five per cent. more than could in justice have been imposed by the Acts of 1816 and 1819?—In the first place, I have not looked at the prices of silver to know whether at that period the prices did vary so as to make the difference we are now speaking of. Clearly, the view of Parliament was, that, though gold and silver might either of them be taken for coinage to the mint, yet that in truth gold had been the practical standard, and therefore they thought themselves safe in taking gold. Having come to the conclusion that it was better to have but one metal, and that that metal should be gold, there seemed to be no other alternative but that of taking gold at the standard which then existed. But certainly, there can be no doubt that looking to what the nature of the contracts was before they passed it, it made the difference that is spoken of.

17656. Is your lordship aware what the ground was that induced the Legislature then to give a preference to the gold over the silver standard?—I think, that upon that subject Mr. Ricardo's opinion prevailed very much; and I must say, that the general preponderance of opinions was then in favour of the gold, the political economists were for the gold, the bank directors were for the gold, and the general opinion was in favour of the gold standard.

17657. Does your lordship recollect an opinion of Lord Liverpool, that gold being the most valuable metal was the fittest standard for a rich country?—I think such an opinion was expressed, but I am not sure that it was by Lord Liverpool.

17658. In your opinion, was that important question one to be decided without any reference to its bearing upon existing contracts?—I rather believe that the thing looked to was to know what before the suspension of cash payments had been the practical standard; once the Parliament having made up their minds to permit but one metal, and that metal gold, they therefore took gold as it was the standard prior to the suspension. I dare say that at the time it escaped observation, if there was at that time any difference of value, and I am not sure that there was, I am not sure that the alteration between the price of silver and gold has not taken place since.

17659. Supposing that silver was then as cheap as compared with gold as it now is, would your lordship have thought that the introduction of gold alone would have been just and proper as the standard without a rectification of contracts corresponding with it to the amount of five per cent.?—I think if there was at the time the diffence mentioned, it would have deserved consideration.

17660. If it carried the alteration in contracts to the extent of five per cent. by introducing a higher standard than the old standard, would that standard also virtually enhance the real weight of all the taxes of the country?—Undoubtedly; if it affected all payments and all engagements, those forced engagements which arise from taxes must have been affected in the same manner.

17661. Does your lordship then think that a measure was adopted which at the end of the war added five per cent. to all the taxes, without any consideration that Parliament was adopting a measure of that serious character?—It is quite clear that no person contemplated at the time the regulation was made any alteration of the standard. It became so from the present state of things, but it could never have been in the contemplation of Parliament or of anybody to alter the standard. What was intended was to adhere as strictly as possible to what was conceived to be the existing standard, consistently with fixing it in a single metal.

17662. And so intending, they did in effect alter the standard to the extent of five per cent.?—In the way I have stated, it certainly did alter the standard, and this may be proved by stating the case in this plain and simple form. Supposing in the year 1797 I owed a man 100 *l.*, that in the year 1835 he came to me for payment of it, I could pay it at the former standard with five pounds less than I am now obliged to pay. And, therefore, in testing it in that manner it is impossible to deny that it is an enhancement of the standard.

17663. Do you think that a debtor, having a contract debt before the resumption of cash payments, and compelled by the Act for the Resumption of Cash Payments to discharge the debt in money of a higher standard than the old standard of the country, would have a just claim to apply to the Legislature for a rectification

491

a rectification of the contract to the extent of the difference between the new and the old standard?—I think if it had been done at the time he would have had that claim.

17664. Would not his claim be precisely the same now if he exhibits a contract dated before that period?—No; I think not.

17665. Would you put a Statute of Limitations against a debtor in such a case as that?—In the first place no departure from the standard can take place in any country without committing some acts of injustice. You cannot make provision for all possible cases; if you were to set about making provision by what is called adjustment, you would necessarily fall into doing more injustice than you would do justice; and the only consideration you can apply to it is this, that, in fact, there are very few contracts of very old date existing, with the exception of the great contract of the national debt.

17666. The national debt is one great contract to which that principle would apply?—Yes; but, as is well known, to a large portion of the national debt the still greater anomaly would apply of having been contracted in the depreciated paper.

17667. Then an alteration in the standard would in effect operate as effectually upon contracts as an alteration in the size of the bushel measure would alter a contract expressed in bushels?—Yes, it would.

17668. Does your lordship remember the alteration in weights and measures which was effected about the year 1824 by Act of Parliament?—Yes.

17669. Is your lordship aware that in that Act of Parliament was established a provision for rectifying all contracts expressed in weights and measures?—Yes; certainly.

17670. Does not your lordship think that it would be as practicable to rectify private contracts, bearing date before 1819, as it was to rectify those contracts?—I think it would be hardly possible now. In the first place, when you altered the measures and weights, that was an intelligible alteration to every body, and the necessity of adjustment was intelligible. The alteration of money has this misfortune attached to it, that the great mass of mankind are always deceived by it, and it is only a few people to whom, if you were desirous of making any adjustment, to whose understandings you could bring the necessity of that adjustment. There is no subject which the public are so easily deluded upon as alterations in the value of money; and it is for that very reason that they should be more scrupulously avoided.

17671. Would not your lordship think that the moment when an error is discovered in a pecuniary contract that is the period for rectifying it?—If the question mean whether I really think it would be just or expedient to make any such adjustment, I do not think it would; I do not mean to say that a casuist may not make out a good argument for the purpose, supposing you to get a simple case of a contract made before 1798 and now existing.

17672. Does your lordship concur in this opinion, "The debtor calls upon the Legislature and says, give me the power of acquitting myself as I could have acquitted myself in 1798; I am satisfied that if this simple case were referred to a select committee, no gentleman serving on such committee would refuse the debtor what he asked to the extent of five per cent., for to that extent the alteration has clearly damnified the debtor. If, for instance, a committee had to settle a case where the debt was 100*l.*, they must adjudge that 95*l.* was all that the debtor had a right to pay. But you have positively increased the amount of the claims of the creditor, and have entitled him to say I will have 100*l.* when he could have got no more than 95*l.*" Is that an opinion in which you would be disposed to concur?—I do not deny that I expressed that opinion.

17673. That being the opinion of your lordship, would you think that a few years more lapse of time would alter the justice of the case, and induce any gentleman sitting upon a committee to decide according to justice to alter the decision?—I think it is one of those cases in which equitably there should be a limitation of time. I do not deny the strict justice of the case stated, but I can only say that I think if, at this distance of time, that question were to be ripped open, and to be discussed, that few cases would be found to which it could apply, barring the great question of a portion of the national debt; but even then, if you begin with that portion of the debt, and look into the way in which it has been contracted, you will come to the still greater anomaly of the debt con-

The Right Hon. Lord *Ashburton*.

17 June 1836.

tracted in paper; and, taking the difficulties of the question altogether, you had better shut up the book, and say no more about it.

17674. Would not the smaller number of cases which now exist make the remedy the more practicable?—It would not be very easy to make it intelligible to the parties themselves, at the distance of time these very contracts have fallen into the hands of other persons, and it is a bygone injustice.

17675. Taking the case of any particular contract which a debtor shall produce, dated prior to the introduction of the present standard, and which he is called upon to pay with five per cent injustice to himself, ought not that particular contract to be now rectified?—I think not; but at the same time, it is the same question which I have been answering half a dozen times. I do not deny the principle contained in the questions, but I think, under all the circumstances, it is a question now at rest, which had better remain so.

17676. What number of years does your lordship think would justify a Statute of Limitation being set up against a just claim of this nature?—It is impossible to define precisely; even with respect to the Statute of Limitations, though six years bars all claim, a man who has a claim of six years and a day, may be said to have a very hard case; but you must draw some line, and in the present instance I can only repeat, that I do not think there would be any justice in stirring the question again.

17677. Your lordship mentioned, that with reference to the question of the Russian paper money, which was submitted to your opinion, and that of other eminent individuals, your recommendation was to coin a small rouble, and the Emperor of Russia thought that would be a fraud, your lordship was then of opinion with those who now think a small sovereign a proper measure to adopt, and the Emperor of Russia agreed with those who think a large sovereign necessary?—Yes.

17678. The course which Russia adopted was in effect not to coin the small rouble?—No; they kept the paper out, and the paper has remained out till this time.

17679. Suppose they had coined the small rouble in Russia, would it have produced great embarrassment and suffering in the empire?—I think it would.

17680. Does your lordship think it might have overturned the Russian government?—I do not pretend to say; it would have been a great injustice.

17681. By maintaining the paper at its old depreciated value, is your lordship aware whether any great embarrassment has followed in Russia in consequence?—I do not believe there has.

17682. Has a much greater depreciation of the paper followed?—It is a subject that I have ceased to attend to, and therefore I cannot speak from any thing that I personally know; but I believe that the rouble which was then four to one is now about three and three fourths to one; and that the government of Russia have watched the variations of value, and endeavoured to keep it nearly where it was.

17683. Is it your lordship's opinion that Russia by maintaining the depreciated roubles have in effect kept money in pretty tolerable steadiness?—I believe they have.

17684. They have found it practicable to keep up tolerable steadiness in the value of money under a depreciated paper?—The Russian standard is a very uncertain one, if it can be called a standard. They coined some millions of money of platina, and they have made various experiments with their money, which I have not followed, and therefore cannot speak to; but as it respects their paper, they have kept it out, and have endeavoured to keep it at an equal value.

17685. Have they succeeded better in keeping money at an equal value than this country has succeeded, which has gone back to metallic payments?—I do not know enough of their affairs to speak of that.

17686. Have you heard of any great variations in the money which they employ in Russia?—I have not.

17687. But in this country there have been very violent alterations in the value of money?—There have been considerable alterations in the value of money.

17688. Your lordship has stated that during all the changes that took place in our standard of money, beginning with 1797 downwards, a very great ignorance

rance prevailed as to the real character of the measures which the British Legislature adopted?—I should say that the change that took place, the last change, the resumption of cash payments, was a deliberate measure; it was a measure in which I thought, and still think, that the Parliament were led mainly, as I before stated, by the opinion of Mr. Ricardo, to entertain a mistaken notion with respect to the altered value of money consequent upon such change. I believe that at the other periods of change in the currency, the principal actors were not aware of the consequences of what they were doing. I do not think Mr. Pitt or the bank foresaw the consequences of the suspension in 1797; I believe that they did it as an expedient for the moment. I am quite sure that Parliament were in the dark on these matters when they returned to cash payments; and I am equally sure that Mr. Horner and Mr. Huskisson never could have been aware of the utter impracticability of their scheme of returning to cash payments in the midst of war, for that was the absurd proposal made by the bullion committee in 1811. When persons of such talents (for you could hardly take two men in the country of more eminent sagacity), when you see men of that description make what we now look back to as an evident, gross and palpable mistake, it is not too much to say, that the operations of the different changes of the law upon the business of the currency, were not well understood at the time.

17689. Your lordship is understood to have stated, that the Legislature in 1819 contemplated a change in the value of money to the extent of four or five per cent., and not more than that?—That was the opinion of Mr. Ricardo at that time.

17690. Was that the impression under which the Legislature passed the Act of 1819?—As I said before, I do not look at the mere Act of 1819, as the period at which those changes took place, but the Act of 1819 carried permanently into effect the intention of the Legislature.

17691. Applying that question to the whole of the legislative measures by which the present system of cash payments has been established, does your lordship think that the Legislature, during the whole of those measures, acted upon the view that they were altering the value of money to the extent of five per cent. and no more?—I do not, as I have before said, think they were aware of the consequences that subsequently showed themselves from those enactments.

17692. No more aware in 1819 than they were at any earlier period of their proceedings?—I do not know that they were.

17693. Nor could they have taken into consideration those great moral and political questions, which your lordship has described as belonging to this subject, when they decided upon those measures, namely, the alteration in contracts, the effect upon productive industry, and all the considerations which you described as having been taken into consideration, in the advice which your lordship gave to the Russian government?—I believe I stated that I am speaking now from what I suppose to have been the state of the public mind when the measure was passed, that there was a strong feeling in Parliament and in the country, that the moral character of the country was in some respect concerned in the re-establishment of the old standard, and that it was a solemn repeated engagement of Parliament, that there were many persons who may have had some doubt upon the subject, whether there was not something of injustice done, but that this feeling and opinion were over-ruled by the other feeling, that you might establish a loose moral principle in the country by any other mode of fixing the standard; and I think that that feeling operated; it certainly operated with myself, because I made no opposition to the measures that were then adopted, seeing the general feeling of the country; but at the same time, I was sensible, as I expressed at the time, that there was much to be said in favour of some other settlement of the question.

17694. You said that the real alteration was estimated by some as low as five or six, and by others as much as 60 or 70 and that the real calculation would be very difficult to make; does your lordship think that the Legislature, if they had been sensible that they were altering the value of money to the extent of 50 or 60 per cent., would have been induced by any such considerations as those you have mentioned to pass that Act?—I have stated that, in my opinion, the authority of Mr. Ricardo induced them to undervalue the alteration which was produced.

The Right Hon. Lord *Ashburton*.

17 June 1836.

17695. They passed it, overlooking the great moral considerations which are connected with that question?—They passed it, in my opinion, without being sensible of the great alteration in the value of money which was really involved in it.

17696. Your lordship has stated that great ignorance prevailed in the country at large upon the effects of those measures, and you think that the public is now more enlightened upon the whole question?—I think these subjects are better understood than they were, and I think what has taken place in this country has tended to open the eyes of men to the question.

17697. Would not this therefore be a fit time to reconsider the question, with a view to see how far it is in the power of Government and the Legislature to remedy such injustice?—I think not; I think if it affords us any lesson, it should be that of never touching or tampering with the standard of value again.

17698. Would the danger be so great now that the subject is more universally understood than it was when such extensive and almost universal ignorance prevailed?—I think the proper result of the more improved understanding would be to lead them to the conclusion I have just stated. I expressed a doubt whether in the year 1819 there was that difference between gold and silver which has subsequently taken place, and I find on reference to a return, that in 1819 the price of silver was exactly 62*s.*; so that when gold was 3*l.* 17*s.* 10½*d.* the silver was at 62*s.*; according to the price at the time when the standard was made the gold and the silver were therefore exactly in the proportions of the mint.

17699. Is your lordship aware whether gold in 1819 was not more than 3*l.* 17s. 10½*d.*?—In November it got to 3*l.* 18*s.*; but then it came back to 3*l.* 17*s.* 10½*d.*

17700. Perhaps your lordship remembers the Act of Parliament that passed in 1819 to prevent the bank paying in gold, in consequence of the drain upon it for gold?—Yes.

17701. As long as the bank thought itself competent to issue gold in large quantities at 3*l.* 17*s.* 10½*d.*, would not that give an unnaturally low price to gold at that period?—I find that, with little exception, gold was precisely at the price of the mint.

17702. Your lordship is aware that the bank at that period was issuing gold at the mint price; therefore that would account for the depression of gold at that period. Is your lordship aware that the bank issued as much as 7,000,000*l.* during the year 1818 and the early part of 1819 at 3*l.* 17*s.* 10½*d.*?—I have no recollection of it.

17703. Your lordship is aware that the bank was drained of its gold prior to the time when the Committee of 1819 sat?—I do not remember the circumstances.

17704. If it should appear that the bank had thrown 7,000,000*l.* of gold upon the bullion market during the first months of 1819, would not the price of gold be fairly taken from the prices current under the influence of such operation?—If the bank is issuing gold at 3*l.* 17*s.* 10½*d.*, and if the mint takes in gold at the price of 3*l.* 17*s.* 10½*d.*, it does not seem possible that there should be any material variation in the price of gold.

17705. Would it not have been the duty of the Legislature in 1819 not only to have taken the relative price of gold and silver, but to see whether any particular circumstances then existed which affected the price of one or other of those articles?—I do not find so far as this return is concerned that there was any thing material to disturb the price of one or the other; it is quite clear that in 1819 this table of prices of gold and silver being before them, and Parliament coming to the conclusion that there should be but one standard, and that standard gold, the price taken was one which at the time did justice between all contracts. If they had come to the other conclusion, and said that silver should be the standard of value, they would have taken the 62 pence, and then it would be hardly fair afterwards to take any variations which subsequently took place in the price of gold.

17706. Would not any merchant that had seen the price of silver 5*s.* 2*d.* and the price of gold 3*l.* 17*s.* 10½*d.*, and had known that the bank had thrown 7,000,000 of gold upon the bullion market, have been able to inform the Committee that those two relative prices could not be depended upon as permanent?—I hold that the moment the standard was established, and the bank was ready

ready to pay in specie, and the mint was ready to receive gold, you put a stop to the possibility of any material variation in the price of gold afterwards.

17707. Does your lordship's opinion go to this, that Parliament acted equitably in fixing gold at that time as the single standard, because they found that, at the market price of those metals, silver was 5*s.* 2*d.* and gold was 3*l.* 17*s.* 10½*d.*?—No, I think Parliament was mistaken in taking gold in preference to silver, but that if they did take gold they could not take it in any other proportion. I think the state of those prices was a complete justification of Parliament against the charge of doing injustice. But silver which ranged at the price of 62*d.* during the greater part of 1819 fell down as low as 58*d.* in 1820, the next year, so that there was then about six or seven per cent. difference between the one and the other.

17708. The old standard was an optional standard, which gave the debtor a right to pay in the cheapest metal; that was a standard which existed for more than two centuries in this country, and therefore consistently with your lordship's opinion in 1830, the debtor had a right to call upon the Legislature to rectify his contract to the extent of five per cent., the Act of 1819 having injured the debtor to that extent?—Supposing that principle to be established, the public having departed from the system of a double metallic standard and taken a single one; supposing the principle of adjustment to be established as equitable, you would upon every variation of price between gold and silver be called upon year after year to adjust the contracts of individuals. All that Parliament could do was to do that which was right at the time. If that principle were adopted, the consequence would be that, if we look at it now, there would be an adjustment of four or five per cent., if we look at that as it existed in 1820, there would be six or seven per cent.; in short these adjustments would be interminable.

17709. Is not that inconsistent with what your lordship stated in 1830, namely, that it was a just right on the part of the debtor to have his claims rectified to the extent of five per cent.?—If I have given that opinion I think it is an incorrect one. It is quite clear that to that extent he is injured, but the arrangement having been made at that time, provided justice is done at the time, he must take his chance of the consequence. If at the period of the passing of that Act and the establishing the standard, there was then a difference between the two metals to that extent, then immediate injustice was done. But there being a necessity supposed of taking one metal, and that one being taken in correct proportion to the other as they then stood, it can hardly be said that injustice is done.

17710. That necessity being founded upon taking into view the minor considerations connected with the subject and not the more important ones?—As I said before, I think the Legislature were mistaken in their choice, but having made that choice they made it upon the authority of what would be called the best men of the time; they made what was at the time a proper adjustment between gold and silver, because they could have taken no other.

17711. Sir *Robert Peel.*] Is not the result of your examination that you do not now advise the revision of pre-existing contracts, or any arrangement of the kind which is familiarly known by the name of equitable adjustment?—Surely, not by any means.

17712. Although you consider that a silver standard or a joint standard might abstractedly be preferable to one of gold, should you advise in case a new arrangement were made with respect to the metals constituting the standard of value that there should be any depreciation of the existing standard?—Surely not.

17713. Do you think that the agriculturist has any special interest in the depreciation of the standard?—I think he cannot possibly; I do not see any interest that any persons can have in the depreciation of the standard, excepting that a debtor may be said to have an interest in defrauding his creditor. Nobody can honestly have any interest in the depreciation of the standard.

17714. You say that a person having incurred a debt of 100*l.* before 1797, and being now called upon to discharge that debt in the present currency, would have to pay five cent. in addition to the 100*l.* On what ground do you assume the addition of five per cent.?—In this way: a person owing a debt before the year 1798, which was the year in which the access to the mint for silver was stopped, had the option of paying either in gold or in silver, and he might take

The Right Hon. Lord *Ashburton*.

17 June 1836.

gold at 3*l.* 17*s.* 10½*d.*, or he might take silver at 62*d.* the ounce or 62*s.* the pound. Then supposing that debt to remain over until the present day and to be now paid, he could pay it with 95*l.*; supposing the price of silver to be 59*s.* instead of 62*s.*, he would have that advantage.

17715. In all the questions that have recently been put to you, five per cent. has been assumed as the difference in the value of the debt of 100*l.*, on account of an assumed difference to that extent in the value of silver?—Yes.

17716. Supposing the price of silver at present to be 60*d.* the ounce, is not the difference nearer three per cent. than five?—Supposing it to be 60*d.*, it is two upon 60*d.*, which is about three-and-a-half per cent.; but silver has been as low as 4*s.* 9*d.* I see by these tables that silver has been as low as 4*s.* 9*d.*

17717. Supposing, however, that the Legislature were now to determine that silver should hereafter be a legal tender, would not the effect be to cause some rise in the price of silver? Has not a part of the depression of the price of silver arisen from its having ceased to be a legal tender here?—I do not think much, because silver before that time had not been our practical tender, and therefore I think it cannot be said to have been reduced in value by its exclusion. Gold may have been increased in value by our demand for it.

17718. Supposing we were now to determine to adopt a silver standard exclusively, instead of a gold standard exclusively, do not you think the consequence of that change would be some alteration in the relative price of the two metals?—No doubt of it.

17719. It would have a tendency to depress the price of gold and to increase the price of silver?—It would probably do both.

17720. Was not gold practically, up to the year 1797, the standard of value in this country?—Practically it was.

17721. Do not you think that, whatever might have been the letter of the law, 49 contracts out of 50 were practically settled with reference to the value of gold?— Undoubtedly.

17722. Therefore supposing that there has been an alteration in the relative value of silver and gold, and that it would now be an advantage to the debtor to pay his debt in silver instead of gold; yet is not that an advantage which has arisen subsequently, and which could not have been foreseen or calculated upon in the year 1797?—I think not.

17723. Although the law permitted a debt to the amount of 25*l.* to be discharged in silver coin for a certain period after the expiration of the temporary Act that passed in 1774, yet is not it very possible that the silver currency, though greatly depreciated in intrinsic value, might have had a fictitious value as a token or medium of exchange on account of its limited amount; may it not have been more for the interest of a debtor to pay in gold, although a more valuable coin intrinsically, rather than have the trouble and expense of collecting the depreciated silver coin?—Undoubtedly; the silver being out in a limited quantity, that quantity not exceeding what was wanted for small change, it would have acquired a value as small change in the same manner as we see our present tokens acquire an artificial value, because at the present moment you have ten millions of silver out of depreciated coin, and yet it is held out in circulation upon a par with its nominal value by the mere fact of its being used as a token, and its being limited in its amount. This is the case with the present silver, though it is not payable to the extent of 25*l.* as formerly, but only 40*s.*

17724. Do you think that persons did practically avail themselves of that advantage which they appear to have had legally, of paying a debt of 24*l.* or any less sum than 25*l.*, by collecting the depreciated silver and paying it?—Certainly not; on the contrary, I should rather think that there was a want of small silver.

17725. This advantage, therefore, was merely a nominal advantage, and not a practical one?—As far as concerns the power of paying in the depreciated silver, it was quite nominal; the debtor could not have got wherewith to pay it.

17726. Now, let us take the case of a debt above 25*l.*, and its payment in silver, up to the year 1797, by weight, because the debtor had a right, where the debt exceeded 25*l.*, of paying it in silver by weight?—He had a right, before 1798, of paying to any amount by tale. In 1774 the first Act was passed, and that lasted till 1783, and then the Act expired. The Act having expired, there was nothing to prevent any person paying by tale in silver; and I remember Mr. Vansittart,

497

The Right Hon. Lord *Ashburton*.

17 June 1836.

Vansittart, in his speech upon his resolutions, stated that the public debt might have been paid in crooked sixpences.

17727. But they could not avail themselves of that nominal advantage, because the coin had value as coin?—Yes, it existed, but in very limited quantity, and was of value for small change.

17728. Still there remained to the debtor the power of paying his debt in silver by weight?—Precisely.

17729. But supposing silver at that time was frequently *5s. 4d.* the ounce, and generally above *5s. 2d.*, is not it clear that the option of paying in silver by weight was a nominal rather than a practical advantage, and that it could not be profitable to a debtor to pay his debt in silver by weight, so long as silver exceeded the mint price of *5s. 2d.*?—Certainly not, but I apprehend that it did not exceed the mint price of *5s. 2d.* till the general depreciation of the paper came into play.

17730. Before 1797, whenever the price of silver did exceed *5s. 2d.* the ounce, this choice of paying in silver, either by tale or by weight, conferred a nominal rather than a substantial advantage on the debtor, inasmuch as by tale the debtor could not pay for it; it was not worth his while to collect the coin, and by weight he would not pay, because silver was, relatively to gold, of greater value in the market?—Surely that is quite true. In 1798 the change of price took place, and in 1798 the first appearance showed itself, of people bringing silver to the mint, and therefore, of course, silver must then have been under the 62*s.*

17731. The advantage, then, which the debtor would now have, of making his choice, and paying either in silver or gold, is an advantage which has subsequently arisen from a change in the relation of silver to gold, and is not an advantage which he had in contemplation, when he contracted his debt before 1797?—Surely it cannot be said that people, when they contract debts, have much in contemplation, as to the construction of money in which they pay; they very seldom contemplate any alteration one way or the other. It is undoubtedly true, that if the contract remained, and no alteration had been made in the law, that he might now pay it so much cheaper, but that certainly was not in the contemplation of anybody, either when the contract was made, or when Parliament made the alteration in the standard.

17732. If the price of silver is 60*s.* the pound, the advantage he would now have would amount to something between three and three-and-a-half per cent.?—At present.

17733. It has been assumed, that if a man made a contract for 100*l.* before 1797, and that if that contract remains still unfulfilled, he has a right, in point of strict equity, to claim the advantage of paying in either one or other of the metals; may not a principle that is theoretically just, and that may also be practicable with respect to one individual case, taken abstractedly, be perfectly impracticable, if applied to the whole concerns of a nation, and to the aggregate of contracts?—Surely.

17734. Would not the man who had actually discharged his contract have just as good a claim to the advantage of revision and readjustment as he whose contract remained accidentally unfulfilled?—Undoubtedly.

17735. Supposing a man made a contract before 1797, and relying on the repeated assurances of the Legislature, that they meant to adhere to the present standard of value, had paid his money and discharged his debt in the present currency, would not his claim for equitable adjustment be equally cogent with the claim of him whose contract remained unfulfilled?—If, when he discharged the contract, he might, but for the alterations of the law, have discharged it with a smaller amount, he is certainly injured. At present we say that the price of silver is 60*s.* I have read from the returns before me, that the price of silver was, instead of being 60*s.*, so low as 57*s.* at one period; so that while he was discharging his debt in gold he might possibly have discharged it even with the difference of 6 or 7 per cent., and then of course he would be injured to a still greater extent; further it should be considered, that when the standard was established, supposing the standard to be a right and equitable standard at the time, the person who happens to have been injured took his chance of the variation of prices having been the other way. You never can alter from the one standard to the other, from a gold standard to a silver standard, or the reverse, without leaving those possible variations at different

The Right Hon. Lord *Ashburton.*

17 June 1836.

periods; and if you were to attempt a practical adjustment you must have the current price of gold and silver brought into the courts of justice to determine what is due to one another in every subsequent transaction.

17736. If the Parliament should say to all those who lent money to the public since 1797, we are now paying you more than we contracted to pay, we will deduct 5 per cent from the debt due to you, would not Parliament be bound upon the same principle to say to all those public creditors who lent their money at par, but whose dividends were paid subsequently to 1798 in the depreciated paper currency, we now are ready to make a re-adjustment with you, and to give you the difference between the sum which we contracted to pay you and that which we did actually pay you in depreciated paper currency? —Surely.

17737. What proportion should you think the contracts made since 1816 and now remaining unsettled, bear to the unsettled contracts made before 1797?—I should think the proportion must be very small indeed of contracts of the earlier date.

17738. Supposing the Government was to institute an inquiry as to that portion of the public debt which was contracted between the year 1797 and the resumption of cash payments, and that Mr. Rothschild, or any other public creditor, was to observe, I am the holder of stock created since 1797, but I gave 92*l.* in good sovereigns for my 100*l.* share of that stock, relying upon your declaration that you meant to adhere to the present standard of value, would it be just to make any deduction from the future dividend due to a public creditor so circumstanced?—Certainly not.

17739. In the case therefore of all the transfers in the public funds that have been made since 1819, the present holders, who paid for their stock an equivalent in the improved currency, would clearly be entitled to be exempt from the revision?—Yes.

17740. It would be necessary to inquire into each individual sale of stock and trace it back to the party who made the original advance to the Government? —Certainly.

17741. Would it be possible to conduct practically any such inquiry and revision?—Quite impossible. The truth is, that the moment the public made up their mind that one standard was the right thing, and that standard was gold, the next thing to do was to see that the adjustment was just at the time it was made, and then whether the result, by after variations, were upon the one side or the other, it would have been quite impossible to have made any compensation.

17742. Supposing this country were inclined to adhere to a single standard, but to adopt one of silver instead of gold, with the view of making some relaxation of the standard of value in favour of the debtor, would not it be very important to inquire whether there is not a probability that silver may increase in value rather than gold?—I am not aware of any necessity of that consideration.

17743. Supposing that silver should become relatively more scarce than gold, suppose that the relative value of silver to gold should become fourteen to one instead of fifteen to one, is it not quite clear that by taking silver exclusively as the standard of value, we should be screwing up the standard and not relaxing it?—Yes.

17744. You are aware that there are persons that hold the opinion that there is a chance that the relative supply of gold with respect to silver will increase? —I have heard both opinions. The subject was variously discussed when the Spanish colonies were opened. I remember Lord Liverpool saying that some persons were then of opinion that silver might become as abundant as lead. It was thought that the application of steam to the working of the mines in Mexico would produce an immense increase of silver, and I believe that that opinion weighed very much in making him think that there was more certainty in a gold standard than in silver. Then, at other times, some people entertained the opposite opinion; but I think the general expectation had been rather of an increased quantity of silver than an increased quantity of gold.

17745. You say you do not think a 1*l.* note circulation would be consistent with a silver standard?—I do not think with a metallic standard of any sort.

17746. Then supposing we adopted a silver standard exclusively, in what mode would you provide for all the small payments of the country, for all payments below 5*l.*?—I would leave the small payments of the country just

just as they are now. You might do one of two things, you might either leave the silver token out or make the whole coinage of standard value. For small payments the silver token would be in no danger if you did not issue it in excess, still less, if you established the principle, that the bank should always take it in, and that the mint should take it back of the bank, as is, I believe, now practised, that principle would secure the token from depreciation. When I was examined before the Privy Council, my proposition was to leave the token coinage out as it is, and to call in nothing but crowns for your larger payments.

17747. Would not it be necessary in this country to have some currency besides silver for payment of sums below 5*l.*; do you think we could conduct the operations of this country with a silver currency only, and 5*l.* notes?—Undoubtedly; it would be cumbrous rather; carying silver to the extent of 5*l.* would be rather troublesome, and for this reason a concurrent metal would be of use, in the same manner as it is in France. They have no bank-notes in Paris under 20*l.*, but nobody encumbers himself with a quantity of silver coin. They have a gold coin, used for the ordinary purposes of life, and there is no want of it. I think the difficulty is a considerable one. If you were to abolish the gold coin altogether, it would be very inconvenient to have nothing between 5*s.* and a 5*l.* note.

17748. There would be an intermediate course; you might make a silver standard, and permit the gold to circulate as a token?—You might do that.

17749. But supposing gold were not the standard of value, and that there was no obligation on the part of the bank to issue gold coin, and that, when issued, it was allowed merely to take its chance in circulation, is it not the probability that the gold currency of this country would leave it?—I do not know that it would. The example of a country where the two metals exist together is worth all the theory of speculation. In France, the gold lives in harmony with the silver, with occasionally a difference of value.

17750. Do they not determine in France the relative values of gold and silver?—Yes; the coins are made with a determined relative value; sometimes they are at par. I have known the Bank of France pay indifferently in gold or silver; and for a long time, I think, 10 centimes per mille—the merest trifle, was the difference between one and the other, a difference that nobody cares about in using the two coins.

17751. What power do they reserve to themselves of adjusting from time to time the relative values of the standard?—They do not reserve to themselves the power, but they have, in point of fact, adjusted them.

17752. May you melt down the gold coin in France, or is it an offence against law to melt it?—I think not. The mint in France is upon a singular footing; the masters of the mint coin on their own account, and take a limited seignorage. It is a complicated but economical system, and, I believe, not a bad one.

17753. In the course of a former answer you used this expression, that America has taken a gold standard; did you not rather mean that she has so altered the proportions, that gold now circulates in America in preference to silver, there being in point of fact a joint standard, it being optional to pay in either metal?—Yes.

17754. But practically in most of the states, on account of the value of the metal, gold is the standard?—Gold has become the standard within the last few years.

17755. And that by the deliberate act of the American Government?—A deliberate act of Congress, upon a report, which has been printed.

17756. Was not it with a desire to encourage the use of gold as a standard?—I believe so.

17757. Therefore they who have made the most recent alteration in their currency, and who appear to have given much attention to the subject, must have seen some advantage in adopting a gold standard in preference to silver?—It is possible that they did.

17758. Is it possible that their proximity to the mines entered into the consideration of the question?—I should think not; they are nearer to the silver than to the gold.

17759. But may they not have thought that on that account they should have a greater fixedness of standard by taking gold instead of silver as the practical standard of value?—I rather believe that the object of the Government was to get rid of small paper, and probably they might have been influenced by the

The Right Hon. Lord *Ashburton.*

17 June 1836.

very consideration mentioned, that it was difficult to do without small paper without having practically a gold standard, because it is a measure of the present Government, of General Jackson's Government, who is very adverse to the circulation of bank paper. He may have thought that the circulation of gold was likely to tend to a diminution of paper. I believe the change was made in opposition to the opinions of the best informed persons in the country, and was in some way connected with party politics.

17760. So far as the special interests of agriculture are concerned, do you think this Committee can give any better advice to the Legislature than to leave agriculture alone?—I should say not only as it respects agriculture, but as it respects all classes, I feel so strongly the danger myself of the gold standard, that I do not know if the public were ready for it, and that there was no opposition any where, that I should not like still to see it restored; notwithstanding my reluctance to a change, and the dangers which attend change, I think I should like to see silver established as a standard, because my apprehension is, that the gold standard is a system of fair weather, and that you will be deceived by it, under the first difficulties; that we ultimately cannot be able to maintain it; and it is my apprehension of insecurity with respect to the standard that makes me fearful of the gold standard; but at the same time, if any notion were entertained at the time that you were going essentially to lower the value of the standard, that you were not going to take a full equivalent in silver at the time you made the change, as you did when you established the gold standard, if there was any apprehension of that sort, or if it was in any degree to unsettle men's minds upon the subject, I should conceive the danger of that very great; and I confess that my opinion fluctuates a little, between my aversion to any change upon the subject and the apprehension which I entertain, that we cannot rely upon maintaining our present system. In any time of war or trouble the gold standard will leave you in the lurch; you may then at last be forced into paper, and if you once again adopt irredeemable paper, you will not so easily recover from it. But with respect to the immediate question of agriculture, it is quite clear that whatever distress there may have been in agriculture, the state of the currency and circulation has nothing material to do with it. First of all, if the state of money and the state of the circulation had been in fault, it must have shown itself in other articles. You have general prosperity in other branches, and a rise of prices almost universally, and therefore I cannot understand by what process of reasoning any person can suppose that any portion of agricultural distress can arise from the state of money. If you come to the immediate interests of the agriculturist, you find that in certain branches in his wool and his meat, for instance, the prices are high; and there is the single article of wheat, which is low; how it is possible that by any reasoning you can suppose the state of the circulation to select, first, one single class of society, the farmer, and secondly, one single article of that farmer's produce, wheat, and to leave all the others alone, is to me quite inconceivable. But to return to the general question of our altered standard, I confess that I have a strong apprehension that you have made a mistake, and that the gold standard will fail you in times of difficulty. I cannot say, since the period that it has been established, that it has not generally worked well; but you have had but one great storm, and that was the year 1825, and then, we know, that though the bank did not positively stop payment, it was so near it that the difference is hardly worth boasting of; that in fact your standard may be said to have failed you in that difficulty. I much fear that it will do so again. My apprehension is, that by the attempt to maintain a gold instead of a silver, or a mixed standard, you will some day or other come to the lamentable condition of an irredeemable paper.

17761. But when you give an opinion in favour of a different standard from the present, you give it for the purpose of preventing a contingent danger, which will equally affect all classes and all interests, mercantile, commercial and agricultural, and not from the belief that the agriculturists, as a particular class, have the slightest separate or special interest in the adoption of a different standard of value?—I am quite sure that they have not; I never felt more confident upon any question.

17762. Mr. *Attwood.*] As one result of what you have stated, if in 1819 the old standard had been established, every bushel of wheat then sold would have fetched

fetched about five per cent. higher than it has fetched under the present system?—Undoubtedly a higher monied price.

17763. Sir *Robert Peel.*] Would not every thing that constitutes an element in the price of wheat, have also undergone a rise of five per cent.?—Certainly.

17764. Mr. *Attwood.*] The Americans are understood to have established their currency system upon a very deliberate and well-considered arrangement; is that system this, that they preserve silver as a legal tender, according to the old value of the coin; but they have depreciated the gold coin, in order to cause it to circulate with the silver at the old value?—I apprehend that to be the case, and that their law is, that the nominal coin remains exactly as it was, and that the gold has been altered in relative value to meet it.

17765. Mr. *Wodehouse.*] Did you not, in your evidence before the Privy Council in 1828, state that one object of recommending silver in preference to gold was to diminish the pressure upon the reserves of coin in the Bank of England?—Yes.

17766. Your lordship's attention is requested to this passage; after recommending the encouragement of as much paper as can be suffered with entire safety: "I believe this to be best attained by building upon the base of the double standard, or if not of the double, of the single silver; with this, I believe, the bank will work with more ease and confidence, as will consequently all those subordinate establishments which partake sympathetically, but infallibly, of its ease and quiet, as of its ailings and apprehensions; and if this be true, it is equally so that the bank, having an easier recourse to the means of reinforcement, could safely afford to work with a smaller ordinary deposit of specie; the power of easily acquiring is equivalent to possession, and in this manner, by removing impediments to the means of supply, you make a real increase of wealth;" do you still adhere to that opinion?—I was not aware that I had so expressed myself, but I quite adhere to that opinion.

17767. Does not the system of publicity that is now given, respecting the balances of the Bank of England, show the constant pressure on the reserves of the Bank of England beyond all doubt; and is not an establishment of this nature, which does not appear to be very much at home with itself, in truth incapacitated from imparting confidence to other establishments which are necessarily dependent upon it?—I believe that to be quite so; I quite retain my opinion, that the Bank of England, upon the ease and facility of the circulation of which the whole circulation of the country depends, would be very much improved by the use of a silver standard; I cannot doubt it.

17768. Mr. *B. Baring.*] In giving your opinion as to the expediency of returning to cash payments in Russia, did you not take into consideration the political circumstances affecting the state of vassalage in that country?—I know that it is connected with an extremely important consideration of that kind, inasmuch as the vassalage in Russia is converted, in a great many cases, into fixed money payments, and the alteration of money has very much altered the condition of the Russian serf; but I had not taken that circumstance into consideration at the time when the opinion was given. I remember it being stated that there were important domestic political considerations in it, but we gave an opinion unconnected with that consideration.

17769 Mr. *Clive.*] What answer can be given to a farmer who seeks the Scotch system of banking, why that system should be allowed in Scotland and not admitted in England?—The only answer that I am aware that can be given is, that the Scotch farmers were too much for us in Parliament, and we could not beat them. The danger is in proportion to the extent; no person can say that there would be any great positive danger in giving Kent or Sussex, or any other county in England, the same privilege, provided you could exclude their small notes from general circulation. The existence of the small notes in Scotland and England has its danger, in proportion to the relative extent.

17770. Does not the confined system of banking in Scotland give a facility to Scotland which does not exist in England?—I am not sufficiently acquainted with Scotland to speak confidently upon that subject, but if it is supposed to work well there, it probably works well because of its confined extent. Nobody doubts the facility arising from the small notes, but against that is to be set the danger of being caught and not being able to maintain the metallic standard.

17771. Mr. *Cayley.*] In the answers that have been given lately with respect to the

The Right Hon. Lord *Ashburton.*

17 June 1836.

the difference between silver and gold and that it amounted to $3\frac{1}{2}$ or 5 per cent., are those answers confined entirely to the difference between the value of gold and of silver, and not at all in reference to the great change that took place in 1819, between the value of the paper and the value of the present standard?—The statements of the difference of the standard in old times, as compared with the present, have turned entirely upon the variation between the gold and the silver, without reference to the depreciation of the paper.

17772. *Chairman.*] Can your lordship suggest any legislative measure, unconnected with currency, by which the interests of the agriculturists can be relieved, without prejudice to the other interests of the community?—I really do not know anything you can do for the agriculturists but to tell them honestly that no parliamentary relief is possible. I am not aware of anything that can be done for agriculture by Parliament.

APPENDIX.

LIST OF APPENDIX.

No.
16. Return of the Number of Inclosure Bills between the Years 1719 and 1835, distinguishing the Number in each Year - - - - - - - - - - - - - p. 501

17. An Account of Promissory Notes and Post Bills of the Bank of England, in circulation Weekly from March 1834 to April 1836 - - - - - - - - - - - p. 502

18. Returns from the Sub-Inspectors of Police in the several Counties of the Provinces of Munster, Leinster, Ulster and Connaught - - - - - - - - - - - p. 503

19. An Account of the Exports of British and Irish Produce and Manufactures to the Countries from which Corn is imported, from 1829 to 1836 - - - - - - - - - p. 542

20. Average Prices of Wool in Norfolk and Suffolk from 1815 to 1835 - - - - p. 543

Particulars of Information desired by Committee on Agricultural Distress - - *ib.*

Statement, showing Average Rate of Land-Tax through England, Wales and Scotland p. 544

Estimated Expense of cultivating Heavy Land - - - - - - - p. 545

21. Return of the Total Quantity of Corn and Malt sent coastwise from Scotland to England, in Ten Years, ending 5th January 1836 - - - - - - - - - - p. 546

22. Return, showing Crops and Price of Wheat from 1815 to 1835; Decrease and Increase of Bank Paper; Depreciation of British Produce; Population; and Value of Manufactures - p. 554

23. Letter from Jos. Sanders on the Corn Laws - - - - - - - - - - p. 555

24. Return of the Total Quantity of Corn and Malt sent coastwise from England to Scotland, in each of the Ten Years ending January 1836 - - - - - - - - - p. 556

25. Statement of the Prices paid for Provisions and Household Stores for the use of the Royal Hospital at Greenwich, at various periods from 1790 to 1835 - - - - - p. 560

26. Return, showing the manner in which the Fiars Prices are struck in the several Counties of Scotland - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - p. 561

27. Return of Grain and Meal carried coastwise from one Port of Scotland to another, during each of the Ten Years ending 5th January 1836 - - - - - - - - - p. 604

28. Return of Prices of Wheat and Barley at Dantzig, Hamburgh and Rotterdam, during the Years 1826 to 1835 - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - p. 615

29. Return from the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales, showing the Amount of Money expended for the Relief of the Poor, in Suits of Law, Removal of Paupers, &c. p. 616

Appendix No. 16.

A RETURN of the NUMBER of INCLOSURE BILLS, between the Years 1719 and 1835 distinguishing the Number in each Year. Appendix, No. 16.

YEARS.	NUMBER in each Year.
1719	2
1720	3
1721	1
1722*	-
1723	2
1724	2
1725	3
1726	3
1727	2
1728	4
1729	5
1730	7
1731	3
1732	5
1733	3
1734	2
1735	4
1736	2
1737	4
1738	4
1739	5
1740	3
1741	4
1742	6
1743	8
1744	1
1745	2
1746	1
1747	4
1748	5
1749	2
1750	5
1751	5
1752	7
1753	4
1754	14
1755	11
1756	20
1757	17
1758	24
1759	30
1760	24
1761	21
1762	39
1763	31
1764	66
1765	60
1766	49
1767	35
1768 / 1769	60
1770	63
1771	67
1772	70
1773	65
1774	62
1775	42
1776	58
1777	99
1778	66
1779	68
1780	45
1781	25
1782	15
1783	18
1784	15
1785	23
1786	25
1787	22
1788	34
1789	24
1790	26
1791 / 1792	38
1793	46
1794	42
1795	39
1796	75
1797	86
1798	52
1799	65
1800	63
1801	80
1802	122
1803	96
1804	104
1805	52
1806	71
1807	76
1808	91
1809	92
1810	122
1811	107
1812	133
1813	119
1814	120
1815	81
1816	47
1817	34
1818	46
1819	44
1820	40
1821	35
1822	12
1823	12
1824	17
1825	22
1826	20
1827	21
1828	17
1829	24
1830	21
1831	10
1832	11
1833	15
1834	16
1835	4
TOTAL	3,996

* 1722: No Inclosure Bills presented this year.

Appendix No. 17.

Appendix, No. 17.

AN ACCOUNT of the Amount of all the PROMISSORY NOTES and POST BILLS of the BANK of ENGLAND in circulation at the close of Business on Saturday in every Week, from the first Saturday in *March* 1834 to the 9th *April* 1836, inclusive.

—	Promissory Notes.	Post Bills.	Total.
1834:			
March 8	17,118,790	1,551,880	18,670,670
15	16,807,350	1,493,160	18,300,510
22	16,901,890	1,502,140	18,404,030
29	16,936,160	1,497,610	18,433,770
April 5	16,594,570	1,501,350	18,095,920
12	17,431,600	1,527,170	18,958,770
19	17,535,330	1,529,280	19,064,610
26	17,589,520	1,522,110	19,111,630
May 3	17,759,440	1,548,420	19,307,860
10	17,420,860	1,576,870	18,997,730
17	17,433,240	1,550,860	18,984,100
24	17,279,650	1,506,240	18,785,890
31	17,350,330	1,485,450	18,835,780
June 7	17,289,780	1,427,800	18,717,580
14	16,777,260	1,382,120	18,159,380
21	17,013,990	1,386,770	18,400,760
28	16,985,920	1,345,780	18,331,700
July 5	17,027,360	1,391,730	18,419,090
12	18,669,640	1,463,340	20,132,980
19	18,508,010	1,489,420	19,997,430
26	18,177,220	1,484,640	19,661,860
August 2	18,122,610	1,503,670	19,626,280
9	17,666,980	1,487,120	19,154,100
16	17,523,090	1,450,810	18,973,900
23	17,445,870	1,410,690	18,856,560
30	17,452,700	1,386,990	18,839,690
Sept. 6	17,250,270	1,388,010	18,638,280
13	16,892,960	1,360,580	18,253,540
20	16,621,600	1,352,110	17,973,710
27	16,568,110	1,349,470	17,917,580
October 4	16,890,940	1,360,970	18,251,910
11	16,876,510	1,385,140	18,261,650
18	17,901,010	1,458,690	19,359,700
25	17,655,650	1,456,860	19,112,510
Nov. 1	17,594,650	1,452,210	19,046,860
8	17,100,170	1,446,760	18,546,930
15	16,679,800	1,412,150	18,091,950
22	16,492,590	1,402,230	17,894,820
29	16,259,530	1,390,290	17,649,820
Dec. 6	16,182,020	1,377,260	17,559,280
13	15,979,770	1,301,550	17,281,320
20	15,779,410	1,287,780	17,067,190
27	15,691,970	1,274,410	16,966,380
1835:			
January 3	15,818,970	1,302,040	17,121,010
10	17,634,010	1,392,670	19,026,680
17	17,797,110	1,471,120	19,268,230
24	17,530,790	1,509,940	19,040,730
31	17,888,250	1,517,860	19,406,110
Feb 7	17,650,200	1,540,870	19,191,070
14	17,319,020	1,498,660	18,817,680
21	17,124,530	1,483,540	18,608,070
28	16,845,040	1,483,640	18,328,680
March 7	16,797,920	1,452,190	18,250,110
14	16,603,290	1,360,830	17,964,120
21	16,341,990	1,351,020	17,693,010
28	16,549,060	1,358,070	17,907,130
April 4	16,666,130	1,357,450	18,023,580
11	17,415,790	1,414,680	18,830,470
18	17,795,210	1,429,820	19,225,030
25	17,929,270	1,416,000	19,345,270
May 2	17,434,820	1,434,410	18,869,230
9	17,271,920	1,413,060	18,684,980
16	17,013,680	1,368,640	18,382,320
23	16,881,750	1,297,200	18,178,950
30	17,536,780	1,245,020	18,781,800
June 6	16,695,220	1,236,370	17,931,590
13	16,354,060	1,205,610	17,559,670
20	16,246,200	1,162,000	17,408,200
27	16,257,130	1,153,510	17,410,640
July 4	16,390,620	1,160,330	17,550,950
11	18,051,020	1,251,820	19,302,840
18	18,339,410	1,280,220	19,619,630
25	18,243,690	1,274,820	19,518,510
August 1	18,101,790	1,265,630	19,367,420
8	17,309,040	1,260,650	18,569,690
15	16,988,220	1,317,850	18,306,070
22	16,579,650	1,280,130	17,859,780
29	16,466,720	1,315,150	17,781,870
Sept. 5	16,166,590	1,281,100	17,447,690
12	16,069,150	1,225,230	17,294,380
19	16,050,180	1,182,730	17,232,910
26	16,145,100	1,152,160	17,297,260
October 3	16,149,040	1,184,180	17,333,220
10	16,058,240	1,177,870	17,236,110
17	16,598,000	1,253,360	17,851,360
24	16,558,340	1,274,010	17,832,350
31	16,479,860	1,267,750	17,747,610
Nov. 7	16,273,290	1,253,290	17,526,580
14	16,151,080	1,221,880	17,372,960
21	15,943,260	1,149,460	17,092,720
28	15,811,730	1,176,060	16,987,790
Dec. 5	15,502,090	1,175,340	16,677,430
12	15,499,880	1,155,590	16,655,470
19	15,350,390	1,143,390	16,493,780
26	15,663,770	1,170,610	16,834,380
1836:			
January 2	15,972,050	1,156,420	17,128,470
9	16,931,650	1,242,480	18,174,130
16	16,921,500	1,364,650	18,286,150
23	17,111,380	1,360,700	18,472,080
30	17,031,500	1,288,460	18,319,960
Feb. 6	16,834,950	1,270,180	18,105,130
13	16,930,150	1,299,970	18,230,120
20	16,914,650	1,283,060	18,197,710
27	16,710,210	1,252,490	17,962,700
March 5	16,787,200	1,193,930	17,981,130
12	16,583,360	1,190,800	17,774,160
19	16,425,900	1,176,390	17,602,290
26	16,415,990	1,206,090	17,622,080
April 2	16,889,010	1,220,630	18,109,640
9	17,358,060	1,279,250	18,637,310

Bank of England,
16 April 1836.

Will^m Smee,
Chief Acc^t.

507

Appendix No. 18.

RETURNS from the Sub-Inspectors of Police in the several Provinces of *Munster, Leinster, Ulster* and *Connaught.*

PROVINCE OF MUNSTER.

Sir, Dublin Castle, 14 April 1836.

I have it in command from the Lord Lieutenant to transmit herewith Returns which have been received from the respective Sub-Inspectors of Police in the several Counties of the Province of Munster, containing the Information called for by the Committee, so far as the same could be ascertained.

No time shall be lost in forwarding the Returns from the other Provinces in Ireland, so soon as the same shall have been received at this Department.

I have, &c.

To Charles Shaw Lefevre, Esq. (signed) *T. Drummond.*

CORK.

RETURN, showing the Total Quantity of Grain sold in the several Market Towns in the County of *Cork*, for each of the last Ten Years, distinguishing each sort of Grain.

PLACES where Grain is sold.	Barrels of Wheat of 20 Stone.										TOTAL.
	1826.	1827.	1828.	1829.	1830.	1831.	1832.	1833.	1834.	1835.	
Bantry -	3,022	3,995	5,042	3,954	4,648	6,286	8,338	9,584	7,686	8,453	61,008
Macroom* -	- -	1,728	288	3,675	4,200	4,800	5,500	6,300	7,200	3,268	36,959
Dunmannay†	2,146	2,537	3,225	4,157	4,590	4,768	5,117	5,556	7,587	9,741	49,424
Fermoy -	24,414	24,016	20,630	30,545	30,300	30,260	36,760	37,248	43,140	56,330	333,643
Mitchelstown‡	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Kanturk -	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,586	6,776	7,741	8,453	8,900	70,956
Kinsale§ -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	614	511	- -	- -	- -	1,125
Midleton -	751	839	5,824	5,948	5,632	6,717	7,099	13,262	11,057	12,493	69,622
											622,737

PLACES where Grain is sold.	Barrels of Barley of 16 Stone.										TOTAL.
	1826.	1827.	1828.	1829.	1830.	1831.	1832.	1833.	1834.	1835.	
Bantry -	944	826	765	296	620	1,365	1,504	490	480	200	7,490
Macroom* -	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Dunmannay†	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	662	799	914	675	578	3,628
Fermoy -	12,630	18,056	4,376	3,250	12,480	14,746	11,230	22,367	9,654	12,360	122,149
Mitchelstown‡	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	12,500
Kanturk -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	50	50	100	200
Kinsale§ -	4,274	840	1,157	1,398	1,778	816	1,806	1,336	1,374	1,320	16,099
Midleton -	21,303	18,682	21,610	21,999	25,234	24,856	23,519	27,797	27,177	30,225	242,402
											404,468

* No Barley sold in this Market. † No Oats sold in this Market. (*continued.*)

‡ No Wheat sold in this Market. § No Oats sold in this Market.

Appendix, No. 18.

RETURN, showing the TOTAL QUANTITY of GRAIN sold—*continued*.

PLACES where Grain is sold.	BARRELS of OATS of 14 Stone.										TOTAL.
	1826.	1827.	1828.	1829.	1830.	1831.	1832.	1833.	1834.	1835.	
Bantry -	4,367	5,500	5,600	6,400	5,010	5,432	5,124	2,468	2,563	3,421	45,885
Macroom * -	- -	26,698	16,037	16,090	18,757	21,433	24,500	26,000	31,061	12,000	192,576
Dunmannay †	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Fermoy -	31,560	36,425	39,946	29,930	24,180	20,400	38,174	21,220	30,346	34,384	306,565
Mitchelstown ‡	3,429	3,429	3,429	3,429	3,429	3,429	3,429	3,429	3,429	3,429	34,290
Kanturk -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	550	550	550	1,650
Kinsale § -	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Midleton -	4,471	6,008	4,513	7,446	9,616	15,072	18,420	13,341	9,911	7,306	96,104
											677,070

N. B.—No Returns could be procured from the Market Towns of Skibbereen, Clonakilty, Mallow, Bandon, Charleville and Youghal. The Weighmasters at those places stated they kept no Books, and the Millers said they could not afford time to examine their Books.

J. Galwey, Sub-Inspector.

RETURN of the QUANTITY of GRAIN sold at *Cork* Corn Market during the last Ten Years, commencing 1st September 1825.

YEAR.	WHEAT.	BARLEY.	OATS.
1825 - - -	47,676 Barrels	110,266 Barrels	210,765 Barrels
1826 - - -	68,861 „	73,256 „	152,196 „
1827 - - -	69,445 „	82,165 „	199,415 „
1828 - - -	63,680 „	63,644 „	85,397 „
1829 - - -	78,514 „	101,717 „	127,030 „
1830 - - -	73,828 „	108,261 „	133,941 „
1831 - - -	108,042 „	78,320 „	197,846 „
1832 - - -	102,991 „	69,072 „	141,158 „
1833 - - -	105,964 „	86,262 „	121,235 „
1834 - - -	83,938 „	91,743 „	120,597 „

From 1st September 1835 to 1st March 1836.

YEAR.	WHEAT.	BARLEY.	OATS.
1835 and 1836 - -	82,838 Barrels	62,294 Barrels	130,826 Barrels

Barrel of Wheat, 20 Stone.
Ditto - Barley, 16 „
Ditto - Oats, 14 „

In addition to the foregoing, the Brewers and Distillers have Agents in the Country, who purchase largely for them; and the quantity so purchased annually, may, I understand, be fairly averaged, say about 17,000 Barrels of Wheat, 45,000 of Barley and 3,000 of Oats.

There are also large purchases made outside the Suburbs by Corn Buyers, and at the Glynn Distillery, which I understand may be estimated at 120,000 Barrels annually of all kinds, but principally Barley and Oats.

28 March 1836.

Fra. Percy,
Sub-Inspector, City of Cork.

* No Barley sold in this Market.
† No Oats sold in this Market.
‡ No Wheat sold in this Market.
§ No Oats sold in this Market.

KERRY.

RETURN, showing the TOTAL QUANTITY of GRAIN sold in each of the several Market Towns in the County of *Kerry* during the last Ten Years, so far as the same can be made up, and distinguishing each Sort of GRAIN.

MARKET TOWNS.	DESCRIPTION of GRAIN.	Barrels sold in 1827.	Barrels sold in 1828.	Barrels sold in 1829.	Barrels sold in 1830.	Barrels sold in 1831.	Barrels sold in 1832.	Barrels sold in 1833.	Barrels sold in 1834.	Barrels sold in 1835.	Barrels sold in 1836.	GENERAL TOTAL. Barrels of Wheat.	GENERAL TOTAL. Barrels of Oats.	GENERAL TOTAL. Barrels of Barley.
Ballylongford	Wheat, 20 stone per Barrel	220	246	300	567	742	896	941	1,041	1,232	544	154,803	383,896	88,226
	Oats, 14 - ditto - ditto	25,712	24,340	26,560	27,314	25,310	26,114	27,550	28,440	29,270	15,600	–	–	–
	Barley, 14 - ditto - ditto	6,620	6,000	6,844	7,432	8560	8,744	9,526	12,430	12,780	4,560	–	–	–
Listowel	Wheat, as above, the average about	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,000	–	–	–
	Oats ,, ,,	750	750	750	750	750	750	750	750	750	550	–	–	–
	Barley ,, ,,	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Tarbert	Wheat ,, ,,	7,622	7,622	7,622	7,622	7,622	7,622	7,622	5,979	2,423	14,476	–	–	–
	Oats ,, ,,	11,672	11,672	11,672	11,672	11,672	11,672	11,672	11,427	8,953	15,638	–	–	–
	Barley ,, ,,	430	430	430	430	430	430	430	625	126	640	–	–	–
Dingle	Wheat ,, ,,	2,936	2,706	2,676	3,780	4,740	4,457	7,420	4,362	1,270	3,973	–	–	–
	Oats ,, ,,	130	150	204	500	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
	Barley ,, ,,	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Kenmare	Wheat ,, ,,	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1,152	1,297	1,463	–	–	–	–
	Oats ,, ,,	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	294	201	313	–	–	–	–
	Barley ,, ,,	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	50	142	137	–	–	–	–
Cahirciveen	Wheat ,, ,,	- -	- -	- -	1,073	1,083	600	692	1,382	280	–	–	–	–
	Oats ,, ,,	- -	- -	- -	260	172	163	120	68	89	–	–	–	–
	Barley ,, ,,	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Tralee	Wheat ,, ,,	The Chief Constable reports, that he cannot procure the required information, no Records having been kept.												
	Oats ,, ,,													
	Barley ,, ,,													
Killarney	Wheat ,, ,,	Same observation.												
	Oats ,, ,,											154,803	383,896	88,226
	Barley ,, ,,													

W. Brownrigg, Sub-Inspector, Co. Kerry.

LIMERICK.

A RETURN of GRAIN sold in the City and County of *Limerick* for the last Ten Years.

MARKETS.	BARRELS of WHEAT, of 20 Stone, sold each of the following Years.									
	1826.	1827.	1828.	1829.	1830.	1831.	1832.	1833.	1834.	1835.
City of Limerick -	51,555	73,913	150,585	115,788	102,069	234,930	215,037	246,279	203,164	132,608
Kilfinane - -	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Newcastle - -	20	20	17½	19½	17½	15	20	25	30	25
Rathkeale - -	4,515	4,510	4,574	4,683	4,823	5,217	7,221½	7,157½	8,015	8,960
Shanagolden - -	1,460	1,496	1,504	1,560	1,676	1,794	1,874	1,967	2,174	2,437
Kilmallock - -	2,409	4,527	5,589	4,224	3,229	4,893	5,620	5,424	5,817	6,122
Carass - - -	10,751	10,286	10,034	14,275	17,260	15,607	26,037	20,532	20,482½	20,750
Bruff - - -	922	412	614	724	787	801	947	965	855	–
Glenfield - -	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Askeaton - -	3,500	3,700	4,000	4,200	4,500	4,750	6,800	7,000	7,450	7,820

MARKETS.	BARRELS of OATS, of 14 Stone, sold each of the following Years.									
	1826.	1827.	1828.	1829.	1830.	1831.	1832.	1833.	1834.	1835.
City of Limerick -	290,957	283,346	446,290	234,514	266,823	336,368	459,955	388,143	271,580	321,326
Kilfinane - -	4,285	4,071	4,074	5,000	8,571	1,000	13,750	17,142	1,714	4,285
Newcastle - -	1,542½	1,500	1,514	1,428½	1,428½	1,535½	1,585½	1,428½	1,593	1,607
Rathkeale - -	1,647	1,647	1,647	1,647	1,647	1,647	1,647	1,647	1,647	1,931
Shanagolden - -	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Kilmallock - -	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Carass - - -	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Bruff - - -	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Glenfield - -	7,000	8,400	8,300	8,100	8,000	7,432	8,400	7,139	8,010	8,342
Askeaton - -	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

MARKETS.	BARRELS of BARLEY, of 19 Stone each, sold each of the following Years.									
	1826.	1827.	1828.	1829.	1830.	1831.	1832.	1833.	1834.	1835.
City of Limerick -	13,533	7,798	8,607	11,310	32,898	41,050	20,269	13,246	18,309	36,953
Kilfinane - -	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Newcastle - -	250	269	250	250	257½	281	250	260	250	281
Rathkeale - -	375	375	375	375	375	375	375	375	375	243½
Shanagolden - -	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Kilmallock - -	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Carass - - -	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Bruff - - -	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Glenfield - -	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Askeaton - -	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

N. B. The Return for the City of Limerick has been obtained from the Chamber of Commerce, to which all the Merchants make weekly returns, and all the Corn which is grown in the county is sent to that market, except that purchased by Millers for home consumption, which I have returned in the towns where the mills are situated. No Return could be obtained from Mr. Henry Lyons's Mill at Croom, or Mr. Erson's at Askeaton. I believe all the others to be correct.

Rathkeale, 31st of March 1836.

Wm Smith, Sub-Inspector, Co. of Limerick Constabulary.

511

TIPPERARY.

Appendix, No. 18.

Sir, April 2, 1836.

IN transmitting the enclosed Return of the Quantity of Grain sold in the County of Tipperary during the last Ten Years, I beg to say that it cannot be considered perfectly accurate, in consequence of there not being regular Market-houses in each of the Towns to record the quantity sold. The information, therefore, was obliged to be gleaned from the various persons in each town who are in the habit of dealing in corn.

I further beg to state, that in each market town there are brokers who purchase the corn from the farmers, and re-sell it at Clonmel, at a small profit, which consequently must give an appearance of a greater quantity sold than what has been actually grown in the county.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Major Miller, &c. &c. *John Willcocks.*

RETURN, showing the TOTAL QUANTITY of GRAIN sold in each of the several Markets in the County of *Tipperary* during each of the last Ten Years, distinguishing each sort of Grain

MARKET TOWNS.	Years.	DESCRIPTION OF GRAIN. No. of Barrels of Wheat.	No. of Barrels of Oats.	No. of Barrels of Barley.	No. of Barrels of Bere.	MARKET TOWNS.	Years.	DESCRIPTION OF GRAIN. No. of Barrels of Wheat.	No. of Barrels of Oats.	No. of Barrels of Barley.	No. of Barrels of Bere.
Tipperary:	1826	1,125	7,708	610	–	Nenagh:	1826	40,874	5,060	1,260	1,090
	1827	1,170	7,896	625	–		1827	41,660	5,010	1,261	1,028
	1828	1,285	9,450	676	–		1828	47,175	5,120	774	1,088
	1829	1,345	9,756	690	–		1829	47,589	4,167	1,713	304
	1830	1,476	9,897	540	–		1830	46,812	4,050	1,853	87
	1831	2,067	10,040	500	–		1831	46,101	4,160	998	68
	1832	2,245	10,160	476	–		1832	46,002	2,950	1,770	75
	1833	2,560	10,276	365	–		1833	44,715	5,669	1,130	–
	1834	2,850	10,465	380	–		1834	46,420	4,705	1,995	–
	1835	3,160	10,675	256	–		1835	44,707	4,551	864	–
Clonmel:	1826	188,000	98,300	47,000	100	Roscrea:	1826	4,140	18,500	13,000	–
	1827	192,200	86,600	38,000	95		1827	5,000	13,700	13,000	–
	1828	191,200	86,800	43,000	105		1828	5,050	15,100	13,000	–
	1829	189,000	82,200	44,000	100		1829	4,700	19,100	13,000	–
	1830	188,190	90,400	49,000	80		1830	5,700	20,100	13,000	–
	1831	189,000	93,800	43,000	120		1831	5,300	12,100	13,000	–
	1832	187,000	92,800	36,000	100		1832	5,500	14,100	13,000	–
	1833	188,000	101,800	37,000	95		1833	5,600	11,100	13,000	–
	1834	188,200	80,400	44,000	85		1834	6,100	21,100	13,000	–
	1835	192,600	86,800	38,000	105		1835	6,700	22,100	13,000	–
Carrick-on-Suir:	1826	2,600	4,100	7,000	–	Thurles:	1826	30,400	3,000	9,400	–
	1827	2,897	3,769	6,297	–		1827	31,000	3,250	9,865	–
	1828	3,576	4,642	7,486	–		1828	33,480	3,500	9,940	–
	1829	3,200	3,697	8,201	–		1829	34,500	3,600	8,020	–
	1830	2,978	3,200	7,642	–		1830	37,470	3,850	8,025	–
	1831	3,101	3,437	5,363	–		1831	45,740	4,000	7,040	–
	1832	3,400	3,969	4,876	–		1832	48,670	3,400	8,600	–
	1833	2,862	3,402	6,642	–		1833	50,600	3,240	9,800	–
	1834	3,672	4,800	5,976	–		1834	50,500	4,250	11,000	–
	1835	3,897	4,979	4,684	–		1835	50,600	3,450	11,000	–
Cashel:	1827	10,006	3,460	50	–	Caher:	1826	23,662	37,000	–	–
	1828	6,942	2,860	50	–		1827	25,102	37,000	–	–
	1829	8,032	3,580	60	–		1828	36,948	37,000	–	–
	1830	10,832	3,175	80	–		1829	30,841	37,000	–	–
	1831	12,296	3,630	90	–		1830	31,196	37,000	–	–
	1832	13,400	3,568	100	–		1831	35,623	37,000	–	–
	1833	11,999	3,380	100	–		1832	43,987	37,000	–	–
	1834	13,490	3,170	200	–		1833	42,565	37,000	–	–
	1835	11,150	3,780	250	–		1834	46,725	37,000	–	–
	1836	11,150	3,780	250	–		1835	56,131	37,000	–	–
Fethard:	1827	8,000	3,500	–	–	Clogheen:	1826	42,125	–	3,200	–
	1828	7,500	3,000	–	–		1827	35,158	–	3,400	–
	1829	7,900	3,500	–	–		1828	43,050	–	2,526	–
	1830	8,000	3,000	–	–		1829	37,342	–	2,076	–
	1831	8,200	3,000	–	–		1830	44,520	–	2,164	–
	1832	8,000	3,500	–	–		1831	49,492	–	1,619	–
	1833	7,500	3,000	–	–		1832	59,451	–	1,979	–
	1834	8,500	4,500	–	–		1833	57,038	–	2,325	–
	1835	8,000	4,000	–	–		1834	62,094	–	2,351	–
	1836	8,500	3,000	–	–		1835	62,824	–	2,284	–

Tipperary, 2 April 1836. *John Willcocks*, Sub-Inspector.

Appendix, No. 18.

WATERFORD.

RETURN of the TOTAL QUANTITY of GRAIN sold in each of the Market Towns in the County of *Waterford*, during each of the last Ten Years.

YEAR.	WATERFORD.			CARRICKBEG.			DUNGARVAN.		
	Barrels of Wheat.	Barrels of Barley.	Barrels of Oats.	Barrels of Wheat.	Barrels of Barley.	Barrels of Oats.	Barrels of Wheat.	Barrels of Barley.	Barrels of Oats.
1826 -	102,406	14,965	185,791	2,700	3,079	3,800	3,968	6,430	2,918
1827 -	113,189	5,899	80,008	3,460	1,833	3,280	4,058	7,093	2,050
1828 -	202,522	14,659	163,945	3,397	2,822	4,100	3,978	6,059	1,967
1829 -	131,341	13,563	102,849	2,900	2,156	4,900	4,622	6,397	1,798
1830 -	101,150	35,408	121,370	14,100	2,167	6,950	2,483	7,045	2,416
1831 -	129,599	38,028	104,576	5,700	2,408	6,100	7,928	7,904	8,187
1832 -	148,843	33,184	207,050	6,850	3,046	8,400	12,738	7,704	9,391
1833 -	177,899	9,928	171,236	5,400	2,980	7,860	15,407	6,904	15,492
1834 -	122,749	23,039	147,333	6,600	2,959	9,950	9,620	7,371	8,046
1835 -	63,775	57,731	203,167	6,191	2,903	13,169	18,401	5,735	8,553

YEAR.	CAPPOQUIN.				LISMORE.			
	Barrels of Wheat.	Barrels of Barley.	Barrels of Oats.	Barrels of Rye.	Barrels of Wheat.	Barrels of Barley.	Barrels of Oats.	Barrels of Rye.
1826 -	1,700	3,500	10,000	220	5,500	3,000	54,000	500
1827 -	2,500	3,000	12,000	340	6,400	2,600	75,000	480
1828 -	2,100	2,500	10,500	420	5,900	3,470	64,000	340
1829 -	2,700	1,750	11,000	380	4,800	470	57,000	220
1830 -	3,200	1,600	13,000	330	3,490	3,497	66,727	440
1831 -	2,800	1,700	14,000	400	4,490	2,900	90,000	348
1832 -	2,200	1,300	10,000	350	5,200	4,000	64,700	200
1833 -	29,000	1,100	14,000	440	3,490	5,040	50,000	197
1834 -	45,000	1,000	11,000	500	7,000	3,000	67,290	276
1835 -	3,200	900	10,000	550	5,797	5,000	34,370	300

YEAR.	TALLOW.			
	Barrels of Wheat.	Barrels of Barley.	Barrels of Oats.	Barrels of Rye.
1826 -	3,000	2,000	48,000	300
1827 -	4,020	1,900	44,000	400
1828 -	4,090	2,000	49,000	200
1829 -	4,000	1,040	38,000	150
1830 -	5,000	2,040	39,000	270
1831 -	5,700	1,300	36,000	130
1832 -	5,640	1,000	30,000	100
1833 -	3,000	900	32,000	180
1834 -	3,000	720	31,200	90
1835 -	5,090	1,000	35,500	60

It is impossible to give the exact quantity of grain sold during the period, as a great deal has been purchased in the different markets for milling, malting and feeding horses, &c., the amount of which cannot be correctly ascertained; but the above Return is as correct as can be made out, taking into consideration the means of information within reach of the district officers.

Dated at Cappoquin, this 8th day of April 1836.

Sam^l Croker,
Sub-Inspector, Co. Waterford.

COUNTY OF CORK.

RETURN of the AVERAGE PRICES of WHEAT, BARLEY and OATS per Stone, during the Months from August to December inclusive, in the Years 1833, 1834 and 1835, in the Principal Market Towns in the County of *Cork*.

MARKET TOWNS.	Description of Grain.	Year 1833, per Stone.	Year 1834, per Stone.	Year 1835, per Stone.	MARKET TOWNS.	Description of Grain.	Year 1833, per Stone.	Year 1834, per Stone.	Year 1835, per Stone.
		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.			s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Mallow	Wheat	1 1½	1 –	1 –½	Kanturk	Wheat	1 –½	– 11	– 10½
	Barley	– 10	– 7	– 7½		Barley	– 8½	– 8	– 7¾
	Oats	– 8	– 10	– 9		Oats	– 9	– 10	– 9½
Charleville	Wheat	1 1	– 11	– 11	Midleton	Wheat	1 2	– 10¾	– 10½
	Barley	– 9½	– 7½	– 8		Barley	– 9¾	– 8	– 8½
	Oats	– 9	– 10	– 8½		Oats	– 7	– 8	– 6
Bantry	Wheat	– 10 3/10	– 9 3/5	– 10 1/5	Youghal	Wheat	1 –½	1 –	– 10¼
	Barley	– 10	– 9	– 8		Barley	– 8¾	– 7¼	– 6¾
	Oats	– 6 10/11	– 7 7/11	– 7 9/11		Oats	– 6	– 6	– 7
Skibbereen	Wheat	1 3	– 10	– 11	Bandon	Wheat	1 1	– 10¼	– 9½
	Barley	– 10	– 9	– 8½		Barley	– 7½	– 9	– 7½
	Oats	– 8	– 10	– 8		Oats	– 10	– 8½	– 9½
Macroom *	Wheat	– 10½	– 8	– 8	Michelstown ‡	Wheat	–	–	–
	Barley	–	–	–		Barley	– 8¾	– 7½	– 8¾
	Oats	– 7½	– 7	– 7		Oats	– 7	– 8	– 7
Kinsale	Wheat	1 2	– 9¼	– 8¼	Fermoy	Wheat	1 1¾	– 10¼	– 9¾
	Barley	– 8½	– 7¼	– 9¾		Barley	– 9½	– 8½	– 9
	Oats	– 7	– 7¼	– 7		Oats	– 7	– 7	– 8
Dunmanway †	Wheat	– 11	– 9¾	– 9					
	Barley	– 9½	– 10	– 10½					
	Oats	–	–	–					

* No Barley sold in this Market. † No Oats sold in this Market. ‡ No Wheat sold in this Market.
No Return procured from any other District.

J. Galwey, Sub-Inspector.

CITY OF CORK.

RETURN of the AVERAGE PRICES of GRAIN at *Cork* Market, per Imperial Quarter, for the last Five Months of Years 1833, 1834 and 1835 inclusive.

1833:	Wheat per Imperial Quarter.	Barley per Imperial Quarter.	Oats per Imperial Quarter.	1834:	Wheat per Imperial Quarter.	Barley per Imperial Quarter.	Oats per Imperial Quarter.	1835:	Wheat per Imperial Quarter.	Barley per Imperial Quarter.	Oats per Imperial Quarter.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
August	44 6	23 4	13 9	August	30 10	21 1	18 –	August	30 –	19 11	16 10
September	41 5	23 6	13 7	September	28 6	18 7	14 3	September	27 –	21 5	13 10
October	38 –	22 –	13 7	October	27 4	18 3	14 5	October	26 3	18 7	12 2
November	38 5	22 2	14 9	November	31 –	19 –	17 4	November	28 1	20 10	13 10
December	37 –	22 5	15 5	December	29 4	21 3	18 9	December	27 3	22 2	14 6

REMARKS:—Eight Bushels make an Imperial Quarter; a Bushel of Wheat 60 lbs.; a Bushel of Barley 50 lbs.; a Bushel of Oats 38 lbs.

Major Miller,
Inspector General, Cork.

Fra. Percy, J. P. and Sub-Inspector,
8 April 1836.

COUNTY OF KERRY.

RETURN of the AVERAGE PRICES of WHEAT, BARLEY and OATS per Barrel in the several Market Towns of the County of *Kerry*, during the Months from August to December inclusive, in the Years 1833, 1834 and 1835.

MARKET TOWNS.	From August to December 1833.			From August to December 1834.			From August to December 1835.		
	Wheat per Barrel.	Barley per Barrel.	Oats per Barrel.	Wheat per Barrel.	Barley per Barrel.	Oats per Barrel.	Wheat per Barrel.	Barley per Barrel.	Oats per Barrel.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Listoul *	1 10 –	– – –	– 9 6	1 3 4	– – –	– 9 6	1 10 6	– – –	– 9 6
Tarbert *	1 10 –	– 15 –	– 9 6	1 3 4	– 15 –	– 9 6	1 10 6	– 15 –	– 9 6
Ballylongford *	1 10 –	– 15 –	– 9 6	1 3 4	– 15 –	– 9 6	1 10 6	– 15 –	– 9 6
Tralee *	– 18 4	– 8 2	– 10 8	– 17 6	– 11 6	– 12 –	– 17 6	– 8 2	– 6 –
Killarney †	– 18 1	1 – –	– 14 4½	1 14 –	1 2 6	– 14 11½	1 12 –	1 1 3	– 13 5
Cahirciveen ‡	– 18 4	– – –	– 9 4	– 16 8	– – –	– 9 –	– 15 –	– – –	– 7 7
Dingle §	1 – –	– – –	– –	– 13 –	– – –	– –	– 16 –	—	—
Kenmare ‖	1 – –	– 9 4	– 11 8	– 16 8	– 8 2	– 8 2	– 16 –	– 8 2	– 8 2

* Grain not sold by the Quarter in any of these Market Towns. † Calculated by the Quarter.
‡ Calculated by Barrel. § Calculated by Barrel. ‖ Calculated by Barrel.

Constabulary Office, Tralee,
12 April 1836.

H. Brownrigg, Sub-Inspector.

COUNTY OF LIMERICK.

RETURN of the AVERAGE PRICES of CORN in the County and City of *Limerick* during the last Five Months of the Years 1833, 1834 and 1835.

MARKET TOWNS. &c.	WHEAT per QUARTER.										OATS per QUARTER.										BARLEY per QUARTER.									
	August.			September.			October.			November.			December.			August.			September.			October.			November.			December.			August.			September.			October.			November.			December.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1833:																																									
City of Limerick	2	1	5	2	–	11	1	18	6 3/4	1	18	6 3/4	1	18	– 1/2	15	–	15	2 3/4	14	5 3/4	15	1 1/2	15	1 1/2	–	19	9 1/2	1	1	9 3/4	1	–	2 3/4	–	19	9 1/2	–	19	9 1/2
Rathkeale	2	–	–	1	19	6 1/4	1	17	1 3/4	1	17	1 3/4	1	16	7 1/4	14	– 1/2	14	3 1/2	13	6 1/4	14	2	14	2	–	18	7	1	–	7 1/2	–	19	– 1/2	–	18	7	–	18	7
Askeaton	2	–	8 1/2	2	–	2 3/4	1	17	10 1/4	1	17	10 1/4	1	17	3 3/4	14	6 1/4	14	9	14	–	14	7 3/4	14	7 3/4	–	19	2 1/4	1	1	2 3/4	–	19	7 3/4	–	19	2 1/4	–	19	2 1/4
Bruff Mills	–	–	–	2	–	–	2	–	–	2	–	–	–	19	3 1/2	–		–		–		–		–		–			–			–			–			–		
Carass Mills	2	5	8	2	1	5	2	–	–	2	–	–	1	18	6 3/4	–		–		–		–		–		–			–			–			–			–		
Croom Mills	–	–	–	2	–	–	2	–	–	2	–	9 1/2	1	18	6 3/4	–		–		–		–		–		–			–			–			–			–		
Glenfield Mills	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	13	9 3/4	13	4	14	3 1/2	14	9	–			–			–			–			–		
Kilmallock Mills	2	4	3 1/2	2	4	3 1/2	1	19	3 1/2	1	17	8 1/2	1	17	8 1/2	–		–		–		–		–		–			–			–			–			–		
1834:																																								
City of Limerick	2	–	–	1	13	4 3/4	1	6	6 3/4	1	13	9	1	15	4 1/4	19	– 1/2	14	3 1/2	14	5 3/4	17	3	17	6	1	2	7 1/2	1	–	2 3/4	–	19	– 1/2	1	1	5	1	1	5
Rathkeale	1	18	6 3/4	1	11	11 1/2	1	5	1 3/4	1	12	3 3/4	1	13	11	18	1	13	4	13	6 1/4	16	3 3/4	16	6 1/2	1	1	5	–	19	– 1/2	–	17	10 1/2	1	–	2 3/4	1	–	2 3/4
Askeaton	1	19	3 1/2	1	12	8	1	5	10 1/4	1	13	6 3/4	1	14	7 3/4	18	6 3/4	13	9 3/4	14	–	16	9 1/2	17	– 1/4	1	2	– 1/4	–	19	7 3/4	–	18	5 1/2	1	–	10	1	–	10
Bruff Mills	–	–	–	1	11	5	1	10	8 1/2	1	14	3 1/2	1	14	3 1/2	–		–		–		–		–		–			–			–			–			–		
Carass Mills	–	–	–	1	12	1 3/4	1	14	3 1/2	1	18	6 3/4	1	17	1 3/4	–		–		–		–		–		–			–			–			–			–		
Croom Mills	–	–	–	1	11	5	1	14	3 1/2	1	17	1 3/4	1	16	5	–		–		–		–		–		–			–			–			–			–		
Glenfield Mills	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	13	4	14	9	17	1 3/4	17	7 1/2	–			–			–			–			–		
Kilmallock Mills	1	17	1 3/4	1	14	3 1/2	1	14	3 1/2	1	14	3 1/2	1	17	8 3/4	–		–		–		–		–		–			–			–			–			–		
1835:																																								
City of Limerick	1	8	11	1	10	4 1/2	1	8	3 1/2	1	6	7 1/4	1	7	8 3/4	17	6	14	2	13	1 3/4	13	5 1/2	14	3 1/2	–	18	7 1/4	1	–	8 1/4	–	17	11 3/4	–	17	6 3/4	–	18	3 1/2
Rathkeale	1	7	6	1	8	11	1	6	10 1/4	1	5	2 3/4	1	5	8 1/2	16	6 1/2	13	2 1/2	12	2 1/4	12	6	13	4	–	17	5	–	19	6	–	16	9 1/2	–	16	4 1/2	–	17	1 1/4
Askeaton	1	8	2 1/2	1	9	7 3/4	1	7	6 3/4	1	5	10 3/4	1	6	5	17	– 1/4	13	8 1/4	12	8	12	11 3/4	13	9 3/4	–	18	–	1	–	1	–	17	4 1/2	–	16	1 1/2	–	17	8 1/2
Bruff Mills	–	–	–	1	7	10 1/4	1	7	10 1/4	1	7	10 1/4	1	8	6 3/4	–		–		–		–		–		–			–			–			–			–		
Carass Mills	–	–	–	1	10	–	1	8	6 1/4	1	8	6 1/4	1	9	3 1/2	–		–		–		–		–		–			–			–			–			–		
Croom Mills	1	8	6 3/4	1	10	–	1	9	3 1/2	1	7	1 3/4	1	10	–	–		–		–		–		–		–			–			–			–			–		
Glenfield Mills	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	13	4	12	4 1/2	13	4	13	9 3/4	–			–			–			–			–		
Kilmallock Mills	–	–	–	1	8	6 3/4	1	6	5	1	7	1 3/4	1	7	10 1/4	–		–		–		–		–		–			–			–			–			–		

N.B.—The Corn is all sold by the Stone in this County; but I have computed the Quarter of Wheat to be 480 lbs., the Quarter of Oats 320 lbs., and the Barley 400 lbs.

Rathkeale, 8 April 1836.

W. Smith, Sub-Inspector, County of Limerick Constabulary.

COUNTY OF TIPPERARY.

RETURN, showing the AVERAGE PRICES of GRAIN per Imperial Quarter in the County of *Tipperary*, from the month of August to December, in the Years 1833, 1834 and 1835 respectively.

Market Town.	Date.	Average Price of Wheat p' Imp. Qu.	Average Price of Oats p' Imp. Qu.	Average Price of Barley p' Imp. Qu.
		£. s. d.	s. d.	£. s. d.
Tipperary	1833: Aug.	1 18 –	15 –	1 1 –
	Sept.	1 18 –	15 –	1 1 –
	Oct.	1 18 –	15 –	1 1 –
	Nov.	1 18 –	15 –	1 1 –
	Dec.	1 18 –	15 –	1 1 –
	1834: Aug.	1 13 –	16 –	1 2 –
	Sept.	1 13 –	16 –	1 2 –
	Oct.	1 13 –	16 –	1 2 –
	Nov.	1 13 –	16 –	1 2 –
	Dec.	1 13 –	16 –	1 2 –
	1835: Aug.	1 12 –	14 –	1 3 –
	Sept.	1 12 –	14 –	1 3 –
	Oct.	1 12 –	14 –	1 3 –
	Nov.	1 12 –	14 –	1 3 –
	Dec.	1 12 –	14 –	1 3 –
Clonmel and Carrick	1833: Aug.	2 1 1	19 3	1 – –
	Sept.	2 2 6	19 –	1 3 6
	Oct.	2 2 3	18 6	1 5 3
	Nov.	2 2 7	20 1	1 5 –
	Dec.	2 1 2	21 8	1 5 8
	1834: Aug.	1 10 7	19 6	1 – 4
	Sept.	1 14 1	19 –	1 2 8
	Oct.	1 14 3	19 8	1 2 10
	Nov.	1 17 6	21 10	1 3 –
	Dec.	1 14 8	24 6	1 4 –
	1835: Aug.	1 9 5	19 3	1 1 6
	Sept.	1 9 11	19 3	1 2 –
	Oct.	1 11 6	19 4	1 2 6
	Nov.	1 12 11	20 8	1 2 8
	Dec.	1 13 5	20 10	1 2 10
Caher	1833: Aug.	1 19 6	–	–
	Sept.	1 19 6	–	–
	Oct.	1 19 6	–	–
	Nov.	1 19 6	–	–
	Dec.	1 19 6	–	–
	1834: Aug.	1 13 1	–	–
	Sept.	1 13 1	–	–
	Oct.	1 13 1	–	–
	Nov.	1 13 1	–	–
	Dec.	1 13 1	–	–
	1835: Aug.	1 9 1¾	–	–
	Sept.	1 9 1¾	–	–
	Oct.	1 9 1¾	–	–
	Nov.	1 9 1¾	–	–
	Dec.	1 9 1¾	–	–
Nenagh	1833: Aug.	1 19 –	16 –	1 5 –
	Sept.	1 18 –	16 –	1 4 9
	Oct.	1 10 6	14 –	1 5 –
	Nov.	1 10 –	13 6	1 4 6
	Dec.	1 10 –	13 6	1 5 2
	1834: Aug.	1 18 –	18 –	1 3 –
	Sept.	1 16 –	17 –	1 3 4
	Oct.	1 15 –	17 –	1 3 –
Nenagh—*cont.*	1834: Nov.	1 12 –	16 –	1 3 –
	Dec.	1 12 –	16 –	1 3 4
	1835: Aug.	1 8 –	14 –	1 5 –
	Sept.	1 10 –	15 –	1 4 6
	Oct.	1 10 –	15 –	1 3 4
	Nov.	1 16 –	15 –	1 5 –
	Dec.	1 16 –	16 –	1 5 –
Roscrea	1833: Aug.	2 1 1¾	14 3	1 1 8½
	Sept.	2 1 1¾	14 3	1 1 8½
	Oct.	2 1 1¾	14 3	1 1 8½
	Nov.	2 1 1¾	14 3	1 1 8½
	Dec.	2 1 1¾	14 3	1 1 8½
	1834: Aug.	1 17 8½	15 3	1 – 10
	Sept.	1 17 8½	15 3	1 – 10
	Oct.	1 17 8½	15 3	1 – 10
	Nov.	1 17 8½	15 3	1 – 10
	Dec.	1 17 8½	15 3	1 – 10
	1835: Aug.	1 11 5	15 3	1 1 7¾
	Sept.	1 11 5	15 3	1 1 7¾
	Oct.	1 11 5	15 3	1 1 7¾
	Nov.	1 11 5	15 3	1 1 7¾
	Dec.	1 11 5	15 3	1 1 7¾
Thurles	1833: Aug.	1 16 7	10 11½	– 18 8
	Sept.	1 16 7	10 11½	– 18 8
	Oct.	1 16 7	10 11½	– 18 8
	Nov.	1 16 7	10 11½	– 18 8
	Dec.	1 16 7	10 11½	– 18 8
	1834: Aug.	1 11 –	11 9	– 17 6
	Sept.	1 11 –	11 9	– 17 6
	Oct.	1 11 –	11 9	– 17 6
	Nov.	1 11 –	11 9	– 17 6
	Dec.	1 11 –	11 9	– 17 6
	1835: Aug.	1 11 2	12 6½	– 16 4
	Sept.	1 11 2	12 6½	– 16 4
	Oct.	1 11 2	12 6½	– 16 4
	Nov.	1 11 2	12 6½	– 16 4
	Dec.	1 11 2	12 6½	– 16 4
Cashel and Fethard	1833: Aug.	1 14 –	16 6	1 3 4
	Sept.	1 14 –	16 6	1 3 4
	Oct.	1 14 –	16 6	1 3 4
	Nov.	1 14 –	16 6	1 3 4
	Dec.	1 14 –	16 6	1 3 4
	1834: Aug.	1 11 4	14 8	1 3 4
	Sept.	1 11 4	14 8	1 3 4
	Oct.	1 11 4	14 8	1 3 4
	Nov.	1 11 4	14 8	1 3 4
	Dec.	1 11 4	14 8	1 3 4
	1835: Aug.	1 11 4	14 4	1 3 4
	Sept.	1 11 4	14 4	1 3 4
	Oct.	1 11 4	14 4	1 3 4
	Nov.	1 11 4	14 4	1 3 4
	Dec.	1 11 4	14 4	1 3 4

This Return has been furnished by the Sub-Inspector.

COUNTY OF WATERFORD.

RETURN of the AVERAGE PRICES of GRAIN in the principal Market Towns in the County of *Waterford* during the last Five Months of the Years 1833, 1834 and 1835, from August to December, per Imperial Quarter.

Year.	WATERFORD.			CARRICKBEG.			DUNGARVAN.			CAPPOQUIN.		
	Wheat per Imp. Qu.	Barley per Imp. Qu.	Oats per Imp. Qu.	Wheat per Imp. Qu.	Barley per Imp. Qu.	Oats per Imp. Qu.	Wheat per Imp. Qu.	Barley per Imp. Qu.	Oats per Imp. Qu.	Wheat per Imp. Qu.	Barley per Imp. Qu.	Oats per Imp. Qu.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1833	42 –	24 –	16 –	39 6	21 –	15 6	39 6	20 10	15 –	40 5	22 6	16 –
1834	38 –	22 –	16 –	31 6	19 9	15 6	32 6	19 6	15 6	32 6	21 5	16 6
1835	30 –	21 –	17 6	29 –	19 –	13 9	29 –	18 6	14 –	30 10	20 6	16 3

Cappoquin, 15 April 1836.

Sam^l Croker,
Sub-Inspector, County of Waterford.

Appendix, No. 18.

PROVINCE OF LEINSTER.

LEINSTER CONSTABULARY.

WITH reference to Mr. Drummond's letter of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit the annexed Returns of the Average Prices of Wheat, Barley and Oats per Imperial Quarter, during the months from August to December inclusive, in the years 1833, 1834 and 1835, in the principal Market Towns in the Province of Leinster.

H. Hamilton,

T. Drummond, Esq. Acting for the Inspector-General, 16 April 1836.

COUNTY OF CARLOW.

RETURN, showing the AVERAGE PRICE of GRAIN per Imperial Quarter in the County of *Carlow* for the under-mentioned Periods.

DESCRIPTION of GRAIN.	AVERAGE PRICE per Imperial Quarter. From 1st August to 31st Dec. 1833.	From 1st August to 31st Dec. 1834.	From 1st August to 31st Dec. 1835.	REMARKS.
	s. *d.*	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*	
Wheat - - -	44 –	40 –	40 –	- - This is the average price as nearly as could be ascertained throughout the County.
Barley - - -	25 –	23 –	23 –	
Oats - - -	22 –	25 –	25 –	

Carlow, 2 April 1836. *J. Blake,* Sub-Inspector.

COUNTY OF KILDARE.

RETURN of the AVERAGE PRICES of WHEAT, BARLEY and OATS per Barrel in the principal Market Towns in said County, during the Months from August to December inclusive, in each of the last Three Years.

PLACES where MARKETS are held.	AVERAGE PRICE per BARREL, from August to December. In Year 1833. Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	In Year 1834. Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	In Year 1835. Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
	s. *d.*	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*
Naas - -	22 –	12 6	9 4	19 6	12 3	10 6	17 6	12 –	8 4
Kilcullen -	22 –	12 –	10 –	20 –	12 6	10 –	18 –	12 –	8 6
Athy - -	22 –	16 –	14 –	19 –	14 –	11 –	18 –	11 –	8 3
Kilcock - -	23 –	12 –	9 –	20 –	12 6	9 6	20 –	12 –	9 –
Rathangan -	24 –	15 –	15 –	25 –	14 9	14 –	26 6	13 –	14 –
Robertstown -	- -	- -	13 –	- -	- -	14 –	- -	- -	14 –
Kildare - -	24 –	11 6	15 –	24 –	12 –	14 –	26 –	12 3	13 4
Monasterevan -	24 –	11 6	14 6	24 –	12 –	14 –	28 9	12 2	13 4

Grain being invariably disposed of in this county by the Barrel, viz., Wheat at 20 stone weight per Barrel, Barley at 16, and Oats at 14, I have prepared the above Return accordingly, instead of by the Imperial Quarter.

Naas, 15 April 1836. *John Clarke,* Sub-Inspector.

COUNTY OF KILKENNY.

RETURN of the AVERAGE PRICES of WHEAT, BARLEY and OATS per Imperial Quarter during the Months from August to December inclusive, in the Years 1833, 1834 and 1835, in the several Market Towns in the County and City of *Kilkenny*.

MARKET TOWNS.	YEARS.	MONTHS.	Average Price of Wheat per Imperial Quarter.	Average Price of Barley, per Imperial Quarter.	Average Price of Oats per Imperial Quarter.	REMARKS.
			£. *s.* *d.*	£. *s.* *d.*	£. *s.* *d.*	
Kilkenny:	1833	August - -	1 19 10	1 2 –	– 18 4	The prices in this Return were generally paid for Wheat, Barley and Oats per Imperial Quarter in the several Market Towns in this County, during the months from August to December inclusive, in the Years 1833, 1834 and 1835.
		September -	1 18 4	1 2 –	– 19 –	
		October -	1 15 3	1 3 –	– 18 –	
		November -	1 17 7	1 2 –	1 – 4	
		December -	1 16 9	1 2 –	1 1 6	
	1834	August - -	1 14 10	1 – –	– 19 –	
		September -	1 10 8	1 1 –	– 17 5	
		October -	1 10 3	1 – 6	– 18 –	
		November -	1 12 5	1 2 –	– 19 –	
		December -	1 12 6	1 1 –	1 1 4	
	1835	August -	1 13 9	1 2 –	1 – –	
		September -	1 7 8	1 2 –	– 17 4	
		October -	1 8 2	1 1 –	– 18 8	
		November -	1 6 10	1 3 –	– 18 –	
		December -	1 7 7	1 4 –	– 19 –	

Constabulary Office, Kilkenny, 6 April 1836. *Chas. H. Tuchey,* Sub-Inspector.

KING'S COUNTY.

A RETURN of the AVERAGE PRICES of WHEAT, BARLEY and OATS per Barrel, during the Months from August to December inclusive, in the Years 1833, 1834 and 1835, in the under-mentioned Towns.

	TULLAMOORE.			PHILIPSTOWN.			EDENDERRY.			CLARA.		
	Wheat per Barrel.	Barley per Barrel.	Oats, per Barrel.	Wheat per Barrel.	Barley per Barrel.	Oats per Barrel.	Wheat per Barrel.	Barley per Barrel.	Oats per Barrel.	Wheat per Barrel.	Barley per Barrel.	Oats per Barrel.
1833:	£. s.	s. d.	s. d.	£. s.	s. d.	s. d.	£. s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	£. s.		s. d.
August - -												
September -												
October - -	1 1	12 -	8 -	1 1	- 12	8 -	1 1 6	12 6	8 6	1 1	None.	8 -
November -												
December -												
1834:												
August - -												
September -												
October - -	1 -	12 6	8 6	1 -	12 6	8 6	1 - 6	13 -	9 -	1 -	None.	8 6
November -												
December -												
1835:												
August - -												
September -												
October - -	- 17	11 6	8 -	- 17	11 6	8 -	- 17 6	11 6	8 6	- 17	None.	8 -
Nobember -												
December -												

	FERBANE.			CLOGHAN.			BANAGHER.			PARSONSTOWN.		
	Wheat per Barrel.	Barley per Barrel.	Oats per Barrel.	Wheat per Barrel.	Barley per Barrel.	Oats per Barrel.	Wheat per Barrel.	Barley per Barrel.	Oats per Barrel.	Wheat per Barrel.	Barley per Barrel.	Oats per Barrel.
1833:	£. s. d.		s. d.	£. s. d.		s. d	£. s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	£. s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
August - -												
September -												
October - -	1 - 6	None.	8 -	1 - 6	None.	7 6	1 - -	10 6	7 6	1 - -	10 6	7 6
November -												
December -												
1834:												
August - -												
September -												
October - -	- 19 6	None.	8 -	- 19 6	None.	8 -	- 19 6	11 -	8 -	- 19 -	11 -	8 -
November -												
December -												
1835:												
August - -												
September -												
October - -	- 16 6	None.	8 -	- 16 6	None.	8 -	- 16 6	10 6	7 6	- 16 6	10 6	7 6
November -												
December -												

REMARKS:—The Imperial Quarter not being known in this county, this Return is made out by Barrels; viz., Wheat at 20 Stone to the Barrel; Barley at 16 Stone to the Barrel; and Oats at 14 Stone to the Barrel (each Stone 14 lbs.)

Tullamoore, 5 April 1836. *J. Crawford*, J. P., Sub-Inspector.

Appendix, No. 18.

COUNTY OF LONGFORD.

RETURN of the AVERAGE PRICES of WHEAT, OATS and BARLEY per Barrel in the principal Market Towns of this County during the Years 1833, 1834 and 1835.

DESCRIPTION of GRAIN.	MARKET TOWNS.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.
			1833:			
		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Wheat, per Barrel of 20 Stone	Longford	- -	19 -	18 6	20 -	21 -
	Ballymahon	24 6	20 6	20 6	20 6	19 3
	Granard	No Wheat sold in these Markets.				
	Drumlish					
Oats, per Barrel of 14 Stone	Longford	- -	6 6	6 6	8 -	8 -
	Ballymahon	9 2	8 9	8 9	8 9	9 2
	Granard	- -	8 6	8 9	8 6	8 9
	Drumlish	- -	7 -	7 3	8 2	8 6
Barley, per Barrel of 16 Stone	Longford	- -	12 -	12 -	12 6	12 -
	Ballymahon	13 8	13 8	12 8	12 8	12 4
	Granard	No Barley sold in these Markets.				
	Drumlish					
			1834:			
Wheat, per Barrel of 20 Stone	Longford	16 -	16	15 -	16 -	15 6
	Ballymahon	20 6	18 6	15 6	18 6	17 6
	Granard	No Wheat sold in these Markets.				
	Drumlish					
Oats, per Barrel of 14 Stone	Longford	- -	7 -	7 6	9 -	8 9
	Ballymahon	10 3	8 5	9 -	9 2	10 9
	Granard	- -	8 6	9 6	9 9	9 9
	Drumlish	- -	9 -	9 3	9 6	9 9
Barley, per Barrel of 16 Stone	Longford	- -	12 6	12 6	12 -	12 6
	Ballymahon	12 2	11 -	11 4	11 4	12 2
	Granard	No Barley sold in these Markets.				
	Drumlish					
			1835:			
Wheat, per Barrel of 20 Stone	Longford	16 6	14 -	13 -	13 6	13 6
	Ballymahon	18 3	14 6	13 6	13 6	14 -
	Granard	No Wheat sold in these Markets.				
	Drumlish					
Oats, per Barrel of 14 Stone	Longford	9 -	7 -	6 6	7 10	7 6
	Ballymahon	10 9	8 3	8 3	8 4	8 4
	Granard	- -	9 -	9 3	10 -	9 3
	Drumlish	- -	7 3	6 10	8 -	8 6
Barley, per Barrel of 16 Stone	Longford	- -	11 6	11 -	12 6	13 -
	Ballymahon	12 2	11 8	10 9	12 -	12 -
	Granard	No Barley sold in these Markets.				
	Drumlish					

Constabulary Office, Longford, 4 April 1836.

Robt Simpson, Sub-Inspector.

COUNTY OF LOUTH.

RETURN, showing the AVERAGE PRICES per Imperial Quarter of WHEAT, BARLEY and OATS, in the principal Market Towns of said County in the Years 1833, 1834 and 1835.

YEARS.	WHEAT.	BARLEY.	OATS.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1833 - -	43 7	24 6	16 3
1834 - -	35 6	22 10	17 -
1835 - -	32 9	24 -	17 1

This Return has been made out from a variety of calculations by two or three gentlemen in the Corn Trade, and is supposed to be tolerably correct for the Market Towns of Dundalk, Drogheda and Ardee.

Dundalk, 11 April 1836.

G. Jenkins, Sub-Inspector.

519

COUNTY OF MEATH.

Appendix, No. 18.

RETURN of the AVERAGE PRICES of WHEAT and OATS per Barrel during the Months from August to December inclusive, in the Years 1833, 1834 and 1835, in the County of *Meath*.

YEARS.	MONTHS.	TRIM MARKET. Average Prices of Wheat per Barrel of 20 Stone.	Average Prices of Barley per Barrel of 16 Stone.	Average Prices of Oats per Barrel of 14 Stone.	NAVAN MARKET. Average Prices of Wheat per Barrel of 20 Stone.	Average Prices of Barley per Barrel of 16 Stone.	Average Prices of Oats per Barrel of 14 Stone.
		£. s. d.		£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1833:	August - -	1 1 6	- -	- 9 -	1 2 1	- -	- 9 6
„	September -	1 2 -	- -	- 9 -	1 2 -	- 12 6	- 9 6
„	October -	1 - 6	- -	- 8 6	1 1 -	- 12 3	- 9 3
„	November -	1 - 6	- -	- 8 -	1 1 -	- 12 -	- 9 -
„	December -	1 - -	- -	- 8 -	1 - -	- 12 -	- 9 -
1834:	August - -	- 19 -	- -	- 10 6	1 - -	- -	- 11 6
„	September -	- 19 6	- -	- 9 -	1 - 6	- 12 -	- 10 -
„	October -	- 19 6	- -	- 8 -	1 - 6	- 11 4	- 8
„	November -	- 19 -	- -	- 9 -	1 - -	- 11 -	- 10 -
„	December -	- 19 -	- -	- 8 6	1 - -	- 11 -	- 9 6
1835:	August - -	1 - -	- -	- 11 6	1 1 -	- -	- 12 3
„	September -	- 17 -	- -	- 9 6	- 17 6	- 12 6	- 10 -
„	October -	- 16 6	- -	- 9 -	- 17 3	- 12 3	- 9 4
„	November -	- 17 -	- -	- 8 -	- 17 9	- 12 8	- 8 9
„	December -	- 17 6	- -	- 8 6	- 18 9	- 12 8	- 10 -

YEARS.	MONTHS.	KELLS MARKET. Average Prices of Wheat per Barrel of 20 Stone.	Average Prices of Barley per Barrel of 16 Stone.	Average Prices of Oats per Barrel of 14 Stone.	ATHBOY MARKET. Average Prices of Wheat per Barrel of 20 Stone.	Average Prices of Barley per Barrel of 16 Stone.	Average Prices of Oats per Barrel of 14 Stone.
		£. s. d.		£. s. d.	£. s. d.		£. s. d.
1833:	August - -	1 1 -	- -	- 10 6	1 10 6	- -	- 9 -
„	September -	1 1 -	- -	- 10 -	1 3 2	- -	- 9 -½
„	October -	1 1 -	- -	- 10 -	1 2 -	- -	- 8 6
„	November -	1 6 -	- -	- 10 -	1 2 8½	- -	- 8 6
„	December -	1 7 -	- -	- 9 6	1 1 10½	- -	- 9 3¼
1834:	August - -	- 18 -	- -	- 12 3	1 4 -	- -	- 12 6
„	September -	- 18 -	- -	- 13 9	- 19 6	- -	- 9 11
„	October -	- 19 -	- -	- 13 9	- 18 -½	- -	- 8 8½
„	November -	1 1 -	- -	- 12 6	1 - 5	- -	- 10 -½
„	December -	1 2 -	- -	- 12 6	- 19 9½	- -	- 10 3
1835:	August - -	- 16 -	- -	- 12 6	1 3 -	- -	- 12 -
„	September -	- 16 6	- -	- 11 -	- 16 11	- -	- 8 7½
„	October -	- 17 -	- -	- 11 -	- 16 7½	- -	- 8 7
„	November -	- 18 -	- -	- 9 8	- 16 10¼	- -	- 9 -¼
„	December -	1 4 -	- -	- 10 -	- 17 5½	- -	- 9 4½

Trim, 14 April 1836.

G. Despard, Resident Magistrate.

Appendix, No. 18.

QUEEN'S COUNTY.

RETURN of the AVERAGE PRICES of WHEAT, BARLEY and OATS per Imperial Quarter, during the Three Months from August to December inclusive, in the Years 1833, 1834 and 1835, in the principal Market Towns in the *Queen's County*.

YEARS.	MARKET TOWNS.	Wheat per Imperial Quarter.	Barley per Imperial Quarter.	Oats per Imperial Quarter.
		£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1833	Maryborough	2 11 –	- - -	1 2 –
	Mountrath	2 4 –	1 4 –	1 2 –
	Rathdowny	2 4 –	1 2 –	– 17 –
	Abbeyleix	2 3 –	1 2 –	– 18 –
	Carlow Graigue	2 8 –	1 4 –	– 19 –
	Stradbally	2 – –	1 4 –	– 19 –
	Portarlington	2 4 –	1 10 –	1 4 –
	Mountmelick	2 7 –	1 5 6	– 17 3
1834	Maryborough	2 1 –	- - -	1 2 –
	Mountrath	2 – –	1 1 –	1 – –
	Rathdowny	2 4 –	1 1 –	– 17 –
	Abbeyleix	2 4 –	1 2 –	– 17 6
	Carlow Graigue	2 6 –	1 4 6	1 – –
	Stradbally	2 – –	1 4 –	1 – –
	Portarlington	2 – –	1 8 –	1 3 –
	Mountmelick	1 19 8	1 2 3	– 16 4
1835	Maryborough	1 17 6	- - -	1 3 6
	Mountrath	1 18 2	1 1 –	– 17 –
	Rathdowny	1 16 –	1 1 –	– 17 6
	Abbeyleix	1 15 –	1 – –	– 18 –
	Carlow Graigue	2 2 –	1 4 –	1 – –
	Stradbally	2 4 –	1 7 –	– 18 –
	Portarlington	1 18 –	1 7 –	1 4 –
	Mountmelick	1 15 4	1 3 6	– 15 9

Maryborough,
4 April 1836.

Prepared as correctly as possible.

W. A. Wray, S. I.

COUNTY OF WESTMEATH.

RETURN of the AVERAGE PRICE of GRAIN during the Months of August to December inclusive, in 1833, 1834 and 1835.

MARKET TOWNS.	Species of Grain.	Price in 1833 per Barrel.	Price in 1834 per Barrel.	Price in 1835 per Barrel.
		£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Mullingar	Wheat	1 2 –	1 2 –	1 2 –
	Barley	– 14 –	– 14 –	– 14 –
	Oats	– 11 –	– 11 –	– 11 –
Thomastown	Wheat	1 2 –	2 – –	– 18 –
	Barley	– 12 –	– 11 –	– 10 6
	Oats	– 9 –	– 8 –	– 8 –
Kilbeggan	Wheat	– 16 –	– 16 –	– 16 –
	Barley	– 11 –	– 11 –	– 11 –
	Oats	– 8 –	– 8 –	– 8 –
Moate	Oats	– 14 –	– 13 –	– 13 –
Ballinacarrig*	Wheat	1 16 –	1 4 3	1 4 –
	Barley	– 19 3	– 19 –	– 17 –
	Oats	– 14 –	– 15 6	– 14 8

REMARKS:—There are no Sales made in this County by the Imperial Quarter. These Prices are by the Barrel. Contents: Wheat, 20 Stone; Barley, 16 Stone; Oats, 14 Stone.

* This is the only Market returning per Imperial Quarter.

Westmeath, Constabulary Office,
Mullingar, 6 April 1836.

H. W. Thompson, J. P.
Sub-Inspector.

521

COUNTY OF WEXFORD.

Appendix, No. 18.

RETURN of the AVERAGE PRICES of WHEAT, BARLEY and OATS, per Imperial Quarter, during the Months from August to December inclusive, in the Years 1833, 1834 and 1835, in the several Market Towns in the County of *Wexford*.

MARKET TOWNS.	YEAR.	MONTHS.	Average Price of Wheat per Imperial Quarter.	Average Price of Barley per Imperial Quarter.	Average Price of Oats per Imperial Quarter.
			£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Wexford	1833	August	1 4 –	– 12 6	– 10 –
		September	1 3 1	– 13 6	– 9 6
		October	1 1 6½	– 11 11	– 8 10
		November	1 2 10	– 11 6	– 9 2
		December	1 3 5	– 11 8½	– 11 8½
	1834	August	1 – –	– 10 10	– 9 –
		September	– 19 –½	– 10 6½	– 8 11
		October	– 18 10	– 9 10	– 8 6½
		November	1 – 1	– 10 4	– 9 2
		December	– 19 10½	– 10 9½	– 10 3
	1835	August	– 18 –	– 10 10	– 9 –
		September	– 16 11	– 11 6	– 8 11
		October	– 18 4½	– 10 7	– 9 –
		November	– 17 1½	– 10 7½	– 9 1½
		December	– 18 11½	– 10 9½	– 10 6½
Enniscorthy	1833	August	1 3 3	– 10 10	– 8 6
		September	1 3 3	to – 12 6	– 8 6
		October	1 3 3	– 11 –	– 8 6
		November	1 3 3	– 12 –	– 8 6
		December	1 3 3	– 11 6	– 8 6
	1834	August	– 19 3	– 10 2	– 9 3
		September	– 19 3	to – 11 3	– 9 3
		October	– 19 3	– 12 –	– 9 3
		November	– 19 3	– 11 6	– 9 3
		December	– 19 3	– 12 6	– 9 3
	1835	August	– 17 –	– 10 5	– 10 3
		September	to 18 2	to – 11 –	– 10 3
		October	– 17 6	– 11 3	– 10 3
		November	– 17 3	– 10 3	– 10 3
		December	– 18 –	– 10 8	– 10 3
New Ross	1833	August	1 4 –	– 12 6	– 10 –
		September	1 3 –	– 12 –	– 9 –
		October	1 2 10	– 11 9	– 8 3
		November	1 2 10	– 11 6	– 8 5
		December	1 1 6	– 11 3	– 8 7
	1834	August	1 1 –	– 10 –	– 9 –
		September	1 – –	– 10 –	– 8 –
		October	– 18 9	– 9 8	– 7 9
		November	– 19 6	– 11 –	– 9 2
		December	– 17 9	– 11 6½	– 9 6
	1835	August	1 – –	– 10 9	– 9 –
		September	– 18 –	– 10 6	– 8 9
		October	– 16 10	– 10 2	– 8 5
		November	– 17 3½	– 10 5½	– 8 3
		December	– 17 4	– 11 –	– 8 1½

REMARKS:—The Merchants or Farmers in this district do not deal in Grain by the Imperial Quarter, but by the Barrel. The number of stones' weight contained in a barrel of each kind of grain, are as follows; viz.

1 barrel Wheat - - 20 stone, of 14 lbs. each.
1 ditto Barley - - 16 ditto - - ditto.
1 ditto Oats - - 14 ditto - - ditto.

12 April 1836.

W. P. Trench,
Acting for the Sub-Inspector.

Appendix, No. 18.

COUNTY OF WICKLOW.

RETURN, showing the AVERAGE PRICES of WHEAT, BARLEY and OATS, per Imperial Quarter, during the Months from August to December in the Years 1833, 1834 and 1835, in the principal Market Towns of the above County.

NAME of MARKET TOWN.	YEARS.	Wheat per Imperial Quarter. £.	s.	d.	Barley per Imperial Quarter. £.	s.	d.	Oats per Imperial Quarter. £.	s.	d.
Wicklow	1833	2	3	1	1	7	-½	1	3	-½
	1834	1	16	4	1	5	-½	1	1	8½
	1835	1	14	8¾	1	5	8½	1	1	10
Arklow	1833	2	10	6	1	9	6	1	5	-
	1834	2	9	-	1	8	-	1	3	-
	1835	2	10	-	1	12	6	1	7	-
Rathdrum	1833	2	11	4	1	12	4½	1	3	-½
	1834	1	18	4	1	4	4½	1	1	8½
	1835	1	11	3	1	5	8½	1	1	10
Baltinglass	1833	2	10	-		—			—	
	1834	2	4	-	-	-	-	- 10 to 1 3		- 4
	1835	1	16	-	-	-	-	- 13 to 1 8		4 -
Dunlavin	1833	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	18	-
	1834	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	19	-
	1835	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	15	-
Bray	1833	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	-
	1834	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	1835	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-

REMARKS:—The information herein furnished has been with great care collected from the best and most authentic sources, but cannot be said to be thoroughly accurate, owing to the circumstance of no regular Crane Book or accounts having been kept in any of the Market Towns of this County.

Dated at Bray, this 10th day of April 1836.

James Battersley,
Sub-Inspector, Co. Wicklow Constabulary.

523

Appendix, No. 18.

Sir,

With reference to, and in accordance with Mr. Drummond's Letter of the 18th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit the annexed Returns of the quantity of Grain sold in each of the several Market Towns in the Counties of Kildare, Kilkenny, King's, Louth, Queen's, Westmeath, Wexford and Wicklow, during each of the last Ten Years, distinguishing each sort of Grain. It will be seen by the Reports of the Sub-Inspectors of Carlow, Longford and Meath, that the information required could not be obtained in those three Counties.

H. Hamilton,
Acting for the Inspector-General,
16 April 1836.

T. Drummond, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

COUNTY OF CARLOW.

Sir,

Carlow, 2 April 1836.

With reference to No. 1. of your Schedule of the 23d March, forwarding a Lithograph Order from The House of Commons, requiring an Account of the Total Quantity of Grain sold in each of the markets in Ireland during each of the last Ten Years, I have now the honour to acquaint you, that the Officers have made every exertion, but find it utterly impossible to make out the required Return, as no account whatever is kept of the quantities of Grain sold in any of the Markets of this County.

W. Blake,
Sub-Inspector.

Capt[n] Hamilton,
Acting for Inspector-General.

COUNTY OF KILDARE.

RETURN, showing the Quantity of Grain sold in each of the several Markets in said County during each of the last Ten Years.

PLACES WHERE MARKETS ARE HELD.

YEARS.	NAAS.				KILCOCK.				ATHY.			
	Barrels of Wheat.	Barrels of Oats.	Barrels of Barley.	Barrels of Bere.	Barrels of Wheat.	Barrels of Oats.	Barrels of Barley.	Barrels of Bere.	Barrels of Wheat.	Barrels of Oats.	Barrels of Barley.	Barrels of Bere.
1826 -	1,137	17,480	67	1,576	40,000	12,000	1,000	7,000	–	–	–	–
1827 -	1,122	17,475	58	1,562	40,000	12,000	1,000	7,000	–	–	–	–
1828 -	1,173	17,137	60	1,603	40,000	12,000	1,000	7,000	–	–	–	–
1829 -	1,057	17,387	62	1,600	40,000	12,000	1,000	7,000	–	–	–	–
1830 -	1,073	17,375	61	1,500	40,000	12,000	1,000	7,000	–	–	–	–
1831 -	1,062	17,250	57	1,487	40,000	12,000	1,000	7,000	–	–	–	–
1832 -	1,000	16,262	50	1,480	40,000	12,000	1,000	7,000	–	–	–	–
1833 -	941	16,085	50	1,412	40,000	12,000	1,000	7,000	57,720	19,472	8,075	–
1834 -	856	14,623	56	1,285	40,000	12,000	1,000	7,000	56,138	18,963	7,371	–
1835 -	750	12,796	50	1,125	40,000	12,000	1,000	7,000	37,811	19,878	5,997	–

YEARS.	RATHANGAN.				KILDARE.				ROBERTSTOWN.			
	Barrels of Wheat.	Barrels of Oats.	Barrels of Barley.	Barrels of Bere.	Barrels of Wheat.	Barrels of Oats.	Barrels of Barley.	Barrels of Bere.	Barrels of Wheat.	Barrels of Oats.	Barrels of Barley.	Barrels of Bere.
1826 -	10,000	- -	- -	- -	1,003	1,007	120	300	- -	4,500	–	–
1827 -	10,000	- -	- -	- -	900	800	100	250	- -	4,500	–	–
1828 -	10,000	- -	- -	- -	1,286	1,344	150	414	- -	4,500	–	–
1829 -	11,000	- -	- -	- -	1,163	1,267	140	428	- -	4,500	–	–
1830 -	9,000	- -	- -	- -	1,083	1,137	130	364	- -	4,500	–	–
1831 -	10,000	- -	- -	- -	1,050	1,107	110	311	- -	3,000	–	–
1832 -	12,600	- -	- -	- -	1,099	1,173	140	389	- -	3,000	–	–
1833 -	13,500	- -	- -	- -	1,090	1,152	380	150	- -	3,000	–	–
1834 -	14,400	- -	- -	- -	1,053	1,937	115	340	- -	3,000	–	–
1835 -	14,500	- -	- -	- -	1,113	1,230	145	388	- -	3,000	–	–

The above Return is as accurate as possible. It however shows only a portion of the quantity of grain sold in the county; large quantities being disposed of to millers, factors, &c., by sample, without being brought to market. No regular weighmaster being in the town of Athy until 1833, and the purchasers having removed, the quantity sold in former years cannot be ascertained, but is supposed to average the quantities sold in 1833 and 1834. No Return could be procured from Kilcullen Market, where quantities of Grain are disposed of, there being no regular Crane or Weighmaster there.

John Clarke, Sub-Inspector.

Naas, 7 April 1836.

Appendix, No. 18.

KILKENNY.

RETURN of the QUANTITY of GRAIN sold in the several Market Towns in the County and City of *Kilkenny* during each of the last Ten Years, as near as can be ascertained, and distinguishing each sort of Grain.

MARKET TOWNS.	Years.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
		Barrels.	*Barrels.*	*Barrels.*
Kilkenny	1826	34,000	1,146	18,000
	1827	36,540	1,300	17,687
	1828	34,680	1,987	14,809
	1829	25,150	1,804	11,000
	1830	36,570	1,950	21,000
	1831	45,670	1,787	19,000
	1832	50,440	11,146	21,000
	1833	49,110	1,897	18,000
	1834	40,120	14,468	24,600
	1835	36,350	1,909	36,800
Gowran, Goresbridge and Graigue.	1826	20,396	10,206	19,756
	1827	8,424	8,424	7,288
	1828	12,412	10,206	8,606
	1829	7,432	9,706	9,366
	1830	10,455	11,006	8,337
	1831	18,186	9,825	8,438
	1832	18,307	6,526	8,161
	1833	17,914	11,776	7,941
	1834	16,442	9,565	7,187
	1835	27,746	10,676	7,646
Castlecomer, Ballyragget and Durrow.	1826	3,262	1,200	1,060
	1827	9,164	1,000	1,144
	1828	9,517	800	1,165
	1829	12,986	700	1,416
	1830	14,274	1,500	1,067
Castlecomer Ballyragget and Durrow.	1831	16,591	1,600	1,025
	1832	17,087	1,426	1,275
	1833	19,499	1,125	1,275
	1834	21,195	25	1,505
	1835	6,522	26	1,250
Thomastown Bennetsbridge Ennisnag and Kells.	1826	42,054	4,660	24,400
	1827	29,738	4,890	9,517
	1828	12,519	4,680	9,587
	1829	34,167	4,846	1,515
	1830	16,570	5,500	7,500
	1831	35,588	4,940	12,377
	1832	42,851	4,900	12,870
	1833	48,228	4,977	6,994
	1834	50,430	4,740	3,698
	1835	57,632	5,262	6,019
Callan.	1826	7,460	1,390	3,260
	1827	10,060	1,890	4,260
	1828	10,060	1,890	4,260
	1829	10,060	2,090	4,260
	1830	10,460	2,090	4,410
	1831	10,660	2,090	4,630
	1832	10,660	2,090	5,630
	1833	11,410	2,090	5,710
	1834	11,410	2,090	5,770
	1835	11,010	2,090	5,827
TOTAL - - -		1,149,468	215,898	449,298

REMARKS:—The Grain included in this Return has been mostly purchased at the different mills and stores of the Corn Merchants, as none but Oats are sold in the Markets, and the precise quantity sold could not be accurately ascertained.

5 April 1836.

Charles H. Tuchey,
Sub-Inspector, Kilkenny.

KING'S COUNTY.

AN ACCOUNT, showing the TOTAL QUANTITY of GRAIN sold in each of the several Markets in the *King's County* during each of the last Ten Years, so far as the same can be made up, and distinguishing each sort of Grain.

MARKET TOWNS.	Description and Quantity of Grain sold in each of the last Ten Years.			REMARKS.
	Barrels of Wheat of 20 Stone.	Barrels of Oats of 14 Stone.	Barrels of Barley of 16 Stone.	
Tullamoore - - -	45,000	35,000	20,000	There being no regular Account kept in any of these Towns of the quantity of Corn sold, a probable Estimate can only be made up of the average Sale for each of the last Ten Years.
Philipstown - - -	100	9,000	6,000	
Clara - - - -	16,000	16,600	None.	
Ferbane - - - -	60,000	30,000	300	
Cloghan - - - -	5,800	300	None.	
Banagher - - - -	25,000	40,000	1,000	
Parsonstown - - -	5,610	15,100	13,000	
Edenderry - - -	20,000	30,000	25,000	

Tullamoore, 5 April 1836.

J. Crawford, J. P. Sub-Inspector.

COUNTY OF LONGFORD.

Appendix, No. 18.

Sir, Constabulary Office, Longford, 2 April 1836.

In reference to your Schedule of the 23d ultimo, enclosing a lithographic Order from The House of Commons, calling for a Return of the Total Quantity of Grain sold in each of the several Markets in Ireland during each of the last Ten Years, in compliance therewith, I lost no time in forwarding copies of said Order to the Chief Constables of this establishment, and herewith enclose their Reports thereon, from which it appears that the Return called for is quite impracticable.

I beg to state that I have made every possible inquiry, in order to meet the wishes of Government on this subject; but regret exceedingly to say, that I could not obtain any thing like an accurate account of Grain sold even in this town for one year, owing to the weighmasters not keeping a regular account of the sales: I have further to state, that I called on Messrs. M^{c}Cann & Tenpenny (who are the most extensive dealers in the grain trade), but could not obtain any satisfactory account of the grain sold for one year, who also informed me it is impossible that such information could be obtained.

That part of Chief Constable King's Report relative to the sale of Grain at Granard and Edgeworthstown I consider quite incorrect, as the sales are to a much greater extent. The sales of grain in all the markets of this county are much on the increase the last few years, particularly that of this town.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Captain Hamilton, acting for Inspector-General, Dublin Castle.

Rob^{t} Simpson, Sub-Inspector.

Sir, Granard, 30 March 1836.

I have, by every means in my power, endeavoured to procure such information as would enable me to make out the Return called for of the complement of Grain sold in the markets of Granard and Edgeworthstown during each of the last Ten Years.

I have applied to the persons keeping cranes for weighing corn, and have examined the books of the regular buyers; but still any return made must be far from accurate. There are five cranes in this town, and one in Edgeworthstown; but the owners never kept any account of the quantity of corn weighed, and the different people who come here on market days from the adjoining counties to purchase oats, besides the regular buyers, are so numerous, it would be impossible to make out any correct return; however, I have availed myself of every information I could possibly procure, and although I cannot vouch for the accuracy of the following statement, yet I believe it will be found as correct, under all the circumstances, as it was possible to make it.

Mondays are the only market days in this town, and Wednesdays in Edgeworthstown, and oats the only grain sold in either of the above markets.

Granard, say on an average of 300 barrels of oats for one year, or fifty-two markets, would amount to 15,600 barrels annually.

Edgeworthstown, on an average of 50 barrels for one year, or fifty-two markets, would amount to 2,600 barrels annually.

The above will apply equally to the last ten years. I am, &c.

Captain Simpson, Sub-Inspector, Longford.

Rich^{d} King, Chief Constable.

Sir, Ballymahan, 31 March 1836.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th instant, enclosing a copy of an Order from The House of Commons requiring an Account of the Total Quantity of Grain sold in the several Markets of Ireland.

In obedience to said Order, I have made every inquiry relative to the subject, but regret to state, it is impracticable to obtain the account required, in consequence of the weighmaster of Ballymahan and Lanezbora keeping no return of the sales of corn; I have also applied to several of the corn buyers, but cannot obtain any satisfactory account from them for so long a period as ten years.

Robert Simpson, Esq. Sub-Inspector, &c. &c. &c. I am, &c.

Sam^{l} Alworthy, 1st Class, Chief Con^{ble}.

Sir, Wentownforbes, 1 April 1836.

I beg leave to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th instant, enclosing a copy of an Order from The House of Commons requiring an Account of the Quantity of Grain sold in the Market towns of this district.

In compliance with the Order, I beg leave to state, that I have used every exertion in my power to comply with it, and find it totally impracticable, as the weighmasters have kept no account.

I remain, &c.

Lieutenant Simpson, Sub-Inspector, Longford.

John Forde, Chief Constable.

COUNTY OF LOUTH.

RETURN, showing the Quantity of Grain sold in the Market Town of *Dundalk*, in said County, for the last Seven Years.

YEARS.	WHEAT.	BARLEY.	OATS.
	Barrels.	*Barrels.*	*Barrels.*
1829	75,858	284,849	71,910
1830	84,440	228,336	89,000
1831	70,145	179,147	83,638
1832	103,647	198,281	79,270
1833	119,028	147,600	88,574
1834	103,048	149,048	80,750
1835	96,840	188,537	83,450

There are no accounts of sales kept in the County of Louth; the above was made out for the Town of Dundalk, by a corn merchant, who considers it pretty accurate.

Dundalk, 11 April 1836. *G. Jenkins*, Sub-Inspector of Lowth.

Appendix, No. 18.

COUNTY OF MEATH.

Sir, Trim, 13 April 1836.

With reference to the Order from the Select Committee of Agriculture of the House of Commons, calling for a Return of the Total Quantity of Grain sold in the several Markets in Ireland during each of the last Ten Years, I have the honour to report that, having called upon the Chief Constables of this County to furnish this Return, they have, in reply, stated, that it would be utterly impossible to do so, inasmuch as there is not any person from whom they could obtain the necessary information.

I have the honour to be, &c.

To Captain Hamilton,
Acting Inspector-General.

George Despard, Resident Magistrate.

AN ACCOUNT, showing the Total Quantity of Grain sold in each of the several Market Towns in the *Queen's County*, from the 1st January 1826 to the 31st December 1835.

YEARS.	MARKET TOWNS.	DESCRIPTION of GRAIN.			Years.	MARKET TOWNS.	DESCRIPTION of GRAIN.		
		Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.			Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.
		Barrels.	*Barrels.*	*Barrels.*			*Barrels.*	*Barrels.*	*Barrels.*
1826	Maryborough -	19,000	2,000	–	1831	Maryborough -	22,000	2,040	–
,,	Mountrath -	7,925	6,948	1,700	,,	Mountrath -	10,347	8,148	1,500
,,	Rathdowny -	12,301	–	–	,,	Rathdowny -	17,467	–	–
,,	Abbeyleix -	600	350	–	,,	Abbeyleix -	600	340	–
,,	Carlow Graigue	1,903	6,085	9,749	,,	Carlow Graigue	5,600	10,924	7,484
,,	Stradbally -	450	350	40	,,	Stradbally -	450	350	40
,,	Portarlington -	146	500	100	,,	Portarlington -	152	501	106
,,	Mountmelick -	3,000	2,500	5,000	,,	Mountmelick† -	7,000	8,000	14,000
1827	Maryborough -	19,500	1,800	–	1832	Maryborough -	22,000	2,000	–
,,	Mountrath -	9,590	7,698	1,750	,,	Mountrath -	13,939	7,848	1,500
,,	Rathdowny -	13,838	–	–	,,	Rathdowny -	21,736	691	2,871
,,	Abbeyleix -	600	350	–	,,	Abbeyleix -	680	350	–
,,	Carlow Graigue	6,808	7,138	8,470	,,	Carlow Graigue	11,616	13,274	6,685
,,	Stradbally -	450	350	40	,,	Stradbally -	450	350	40
,,	Portarlington -	146	500	100	,,	Portarlington -	152	501	106
,,	Mountmelick -	4,000	2,000	7,500	,,	Mountmelick -	9,000	11,000	18,000
1828	Maryborough -	18,000	1,900	–	1833	Maryborough -	18,400	2,070	–
,,	Mountrath -	5,103	4,698	1,500	,,	Mountrath -	13,511	7,923	1,500
,,	Rathdowny -	14,143	–	–	,,	Rathdowny -	25,828	1,927	1,048
,,	Abbeyleix -	550	360	–	,,	Abbeyleix -	650	400	–
,,	Carlow Graigue	9,474	8,263	7,099	,,	Carlow Graigue	12,756	12,840	500
,,	Stradbally -	4,500	3,500	400	,,	Stradbally -	450	350	40
,,	Portarlington -	150	505	106	,,	Portarlington -	156	520	107
,,	Mountmelick -	4,000	2,800	8,000	,,	Mountmelick -	11,000	19,000	30,000
1829	Maryborough -	21,000	2,980	–	1834	Maryborough -	21,000	2,080	–
,,	Mountrath -	6,280	5,973	1,550	,,	Mountrath -	14,127	7,098	1,712
,,	Rathdowny -	14,762	–	–	,,	Rathdowny -	25,298	2,083	270
,,	Abbeyleix -	560	360	–	,,	Abbeyleix -	1,100	820	–
,,	Carlow Graigue	6,635	11,549	3,135	,,	Carlow Graigue	13,760	13,038	1,750
,,	Stradbally -	450	350	40	,,	Stradbally -	450	350	40
,,	Portarlington -	150	505	106	,,	Portarlington -	156	520	107
,,	Mountmelick -	4,500	3,500	11,000	,,	Mountmelick -	18,000	21,000	25,000
1830	Maryborough -	22,000	2,000	–	1835	Maryborough -	22,000	2,030	–
,,	Mountrath -	9,907	5,898	2,450	,,	Mountrath -	16,172	7,113	1,700
,,	Rathdowny -	14,228	–	–	,,	Rathdowny -	26,135	2,640	547
,,	Abbeyleix -	560	350	–	,,	Abbeyleix -	1,100	820	–
,,	Carlow Graigue	5,970	11,966	4,412	,,	Carlow Graigue	13,300	15,422	6,100
,,	Stradbally -	450	350	40	,,	Stradbally -	450	350	40
,,	Portarlington -	150	505	106	,,	Portarlington -	156	520	107
,,	Mountmelick* -	5,000	4,000	12,000	,,	Mountmelick -	20,000	30,000	36,000

* Distillery commenced.

† Canal opened.

This Return is made from those furnished by the Chief Constables of the County, who prepared theirs from the best sources of information they could obtain on the subject.

Maryborough,
31 March 1836.

P. Wray, Sub-Inspector

527

Appendix, No. 18.

COUNTY OF WESTMEATH.

RETURN of the QUANTITY of GRAIN sold in the several Market Towns during each of the last Ten Years.

MARKET TOWNS.	YEARS.	Barrels of Oats.	Barrels of Wheat.	Barrels of Barley.	Chief Constable making the Return.
Mullingar	from 1826 to 1835, average	7,800	None	4,500	Mr. Dobbyn.[1]
Castlepollard	-	-	-	-	Mr. Magrath.[2]
Thomastown	1826	13,000	500	360	Mr. Pilkington.
	1827	15,000	600	400	
	1828	14,000	700	300	
	1829	15,000	1,000	400	
	1830	14,000	800	300	
	1831	13,000	700	200	
	1832	13,000	700	200	
	1833	12,000	800	300	
	1834	10,000	500	200	
	1835	8,000	400	160	
Clonmellon	1834	500	None	None	- ditto.[3]
	1835	5,000	200	- „ -	
Castletown Delvin	1834	1,000	400	- „ -	- ditto.[4]
	1835	900	300	- „ -	
Ballinacarrig	1826	28,000	None	2,500	Mr. Porter.
	1827	28,000	- „ -	2,500	
	1828	28,000	- „ -	2,500	
	1829	28,000	- „ -	2,500	
	1830	28,000	- „ -	2,500	
	1831	28,000	- „ -	2,500	
	1832	28,000	- „ -	2,500	
	1833	28,000	- „ -	2,500	
	1834	26,000	300	2,500	
	1835	25,000	300	2,500	
Coolnahea	1826	2,000	None	350	- ditto.
	1827	2,000	- „ -	350	
	1828	2,000	- „ -	350	
	1829	2,000	- „ -	350	
	1830	2,000	- „ -	320	
	1831	2,000	- „ -	320	
	1832	2,000	- „ -	320	
	1833	2,000	- „ -	320	
	1834	2,000	- „ -	300	
	1835	1,800	- „ -	250	
Rathowen	1826	4,000	400	150	Mr. Porter.
	1827	3,500	500	100	
	1828	2,000	50	59	
	1829	2,000	50	None	
	1830	2,000	50	- „ -	
	1831	2,000	50	- „ -	
	1832	2,000	50	- „ -	
	1833	2,000	50	- „ -	
	1834	2,000	50	- „ -	
	1835	2,000	50	- „ -	
Moate	Average from 1826 to 1830	4,800	None	- „ -	Mr. Fallon.
	from 1831 to 1835	4,900	- „ -	- „ -	
Kilbeggan	-	-	-	-	Mr. Ormsby.[5]

[1] No regular entries are kept by weighmasters or others.
[2] States Returns cannot be obtained, sales being made by sample, &c.
[3] Market established this year.
[4] Market established this year.
[5] States it is impossible to procure Returns, no books or entries being kept.

Westmeath, Constabulary Office, Mullingar, 28 March 1836.

H. W. Thompson, J. P. Sub-Inspector.

Appendix, No. 18.

COUNTY OF WEXFORD.

RETURN of the QUANTITY of GRAIN sold in the several Market Towns in the county of *Wexford* during each of the last Ten Years, as near as can be ascertained, and distinguishing each sort of Grain.

MARKET TOWNS.	YEARS.	WHEAT.	BARLEY.	OATS.	REMARKS.
		Barrels.	*Barrels.*	*Barrels.*	
Wexford - - -	1826	13,987	62,057	41,782	--The quantity of Grain stated to have been purchased each year was obtained from the books of Merchants and Traders in this Town, there being no clerk of the market; and the Custom-house not keeping any registry of the export of grain, there was much difficulty and delay in obtaining the necessary information.—*W. P. Trench*, Chief Constable.
	1827	22,626	80,056	37,559	
	1828	41,841	78,628	65,573	
	1829	25,224	76,506	23,640	
	1830	32,511	106,965	37,969	
	1831	33,124	145,219	72,702	
	1832	46,586	146,651	86,587	
	1833	45,197	154,354	58,862	
	1834	32,804	141,002	34,458	
	1835	49,220	160,035	39,080	
Enniscorthy -	1826	40,768	33,141	39,131	-- This Return does not include any grain purchased by small traders, or by the country gentry for their own use. There are likewise some corn-buyers and maltsters who have *refused* to give any return of the quantity they may have purchased. —*Wm Kelly*, Chief Constable.
	1827	41,056	37,360	49,306	
	1828	35,066	35,708	32,421	
	1829	44,521	50,291	48,162	
	1830	45,558	57,890	63,361	
	1831	46,755	54,628	58,405	
	1832	45,239	56,813	48,314	
	1833	45,960	59,594	40,018	
	1834	46,096	60,771	43,042	
	1835	34,632	61,831	37,609	
New Ross - -	1826	15,000	27,500	27,500	-- There is no regular market for the sale of corn in this town, nor is there any return kept by the persons who purchase to sell again in Waterford. I have made out this return from the best information I could procure.—*J. H. Hutton*, Chief Constable.
	1827	16,000	28,000	28,000	
	1828	16,500	29,250	29,250	
	1829	17,500	30,750	30,750	
	1830	19,000	33,500	33,500	
	1831	20,000	34,000	34,000	
	1832	20,000	35,000	35,000	
	1833	21,500	35,250	38,250	
	1834	23,000	36,000	36,000	
	1835	25,000	36,000	36,000	

12 April 1836.

W. P. Trench, C. C. Acting for the Sub-Inspector.

529

0.25.

3 U 3

COUNTY OF WICKLOW.

RETURN (as far as can be made out) of the QUANTITY of GRAIN sold in each of the Market Towns in the above County from 1st of January 1826 to 1st of January 1835.

YEARS.	MARKET TOWNS.																	
	WICKLOW.			ARKLOW.			RATHDRUM.			BALTINGLASS.			DUNLAVIN.			BRAY.		
	Barrels of Wheat.	Barrels of Barley.	Barrels of Oats.	Barrels of Wheat.	Barrels of Barley.	Barrels of Oats.	Barrels of Wheat.	Barrels of Barley.	Barrels of Oats.	Barrels of Wheat.	Barrels of Barley.	Barrels of Oats.	Barrels of Wheat.	Barrels of Barley.	Barrels of Oats.	Barrels of Wheat.	Barrels of Barley.	Barrels of Oats.
1826 -	450	15,066	24,879	300	100	50	60	40	180	–	–	–	–	380	12,396	–	–	4,160
1827 -	450	15,066	24,880	250	150	70	70	50	160	–	–	–	–	380	12,396	–	–	4,160
1828 -	450	15,066	24,882	300	200	80	60	60	165	–	–	–	–	380	12,396	–	–	4,160
1829 -	450	15,066	24,882	420	250	100	80	70	170	–	–	3,000	–	380	12,396	–	–	4,160
1830 -	450	15,066	24,879	400	200	75	40	40	190	3,299	–	3,100	–	380	12,396	–	–	4,160
1831 -	450	15,066	24,879	450	300	150	60	35	180	3,299	–	3,240	–	380	12,396	–	–	4,160
1832 -	450	15,066	24,879	500	140	176	50	45	200	3,299	–	–	–	380	12,396	–	–	4,160
1833 -	450	15,066	24,879	200	100	50	70	30	160	3,299	–	–	–	380	12,396	–	–	4,160
1834 -	450	15,066	24,879	230	130	90	66	50	180	3,299	–	–	–	380	12,396	–	–	4,160
1835 -	450	15,066	24,878	300	150	80	50	40	170	3,299	–	–	–	380	12,396	–	–	4,160

REMARKS:—These are the only Market Towns in the County Wicklow of Ten Years' standing. No account or crane-book has been kept in any of them, and it is therefore impossible to send an exact account. The information furnished has been collected from the best sources within reach, and is generally taken by average.

It may be proper to observe, that much Grain must necessarily have been sold through the country at mills, &c., and that as part of this county is convenient to the city of Dublin, a large portion of the farmers send their Grain there to market.

10 April 1836.

James Battersby, Sub-Inspector, County Wicklow Constabulary.

Appendix, No. 18.

PROVINCE OF ULSTER.

ULSTER CONSTABULARY.

Sir, Dungannon, 17 April 1836.

In compliance with the directions contained in your letter of the 18 March, I have the honour to transmit the Returns of Grain sold at the different Markets in the Province of Ulster for the last Ten Years, according to the Order of a Committee of The House of Commons.

These Returns have been formed from the best sources of information within the reach of the Constabulary Officers, but must be considered as extremely imperfect. In many places there are neither weigh or crane masters; in others their books are inaccurately kept, or not kept at all. Part of the information has been afforded by factors, brewers and distillers, upon vague calculations, which, however, may be deemed as rather under than above the quantities sold.

I have, &c.

T. Drummond, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

John Stovin.

ANTRIM.

—	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Rye.	Bere.
	Tons.	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons*	*Tons.*
Ballymena:					
1826	- -	192	–	–	–
1827	- -	220¼	–	–	–
1828	- -	267	–	–	–
1829	- -	281	–	–	–
1830	- -	305	–	–	–
1831	- -	332¾	–	–	–
1832	- -	441¾	- -	- -	28 ½
1833	- -	627	- -	10 ½	120
1834	- -	512	- -	31	252 ¼
1835	89 ½	485	- -	71 ¼	205 ¾
Antrim:					
1826	500	285	196	–	–
1827	436	310	205	–	–
1828	673	297	216	–	–
1829	200	305	199	–	–
1830	300	420	200	–	–
1831	190	541	210	–	–
1832	280	300	230	–	–
1833	332	901	200	–	–
1834	200	875	205	–	–
1835	291	675	200	–	–
Randalstown:					
1826	531	750	–	–	–
1827	685	791	–	–	–
1828	992	812	–	–	–
1829	858	1,065	–	–	–
1830	910	976	–	–	–
1831	720	913	–	–	–
1832	592	1,100	–	–	–
1833	454	1,078	–	–	–
1834	360	910	–	–	–
1835	210	1,210	–	–	–
Belfast:	--No account could be obtained of quantity sold. It is believed that the Grain trade has gradually increased during the last 10 years.				
Ballymoney:					
1826	- -	10	- -	- -	5
1827	- -	10½	- -	- -	10
1828	- -	13	- -	- -	11
1829	- -	15	- -	- -	13
1830	- -	20	- -	- -	10
1831	- -	2,100	- -	10	53
1832	- -	1,800	- -	8	73½
1833	- -	2,439	- -	40	80¼
1834	- -	2,617	- -	55	84
1835	30	1,895	- -	75	104

—	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Rye.	Bere.
	Tons.	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*
Ballycastle:					
1826	- -	- -	150	–	–
1827	- -	- -	150	–	–
1828	- -	- -	150	–	–
1829	- -	- -	150	–	–
1830	- -	- -	150	–	–
1831	- -	- -	150	–	–
1832	- -	- -	150	–	–
1833	- -	- -	150	–	–
1834	1	100	150	–	–
1835	1	180	150	–	–
Coleraine:					
1826	168	2,402	758½	27¾	–
1827	201	2,259¼	909	30	–
1828	220	2,350	976½	32½	–
1829	201	2,201	963	28½	–
1830	198 ½	2,179	928¼	23	–
1831	251	3,603	1,136½	41¾	–
1832	221	2,359	986½	34½	–
1833	148	1,573	658½	23	–
1834	218	1,856	736	29	–
1835	294	3,145	1,314½	45¼	–
Bushmills:					
1828	- -	649⅘	- -	- -	216½
1829	- -	695⅘	- -	- -	232
1830	- -	574⅘	- -	- -	191½
1831	- -	866¼	- -	- -	288¾
1832	- -	907⅕	- -	- -	302⅖
1833	- -	849½	- -	- -	283⅕
1834	- -	886¼	- -	- -	295⅖
1835	- -	1,232¼	- -	- -	410¾
Ardmoy:					
1830	- -	30⅘	–	–	–
1831	- -	16⅓	–	–	–
1832	- -	90	2½	–	–
1833	- -	15	2⅘	–	–
1834	- -	41½	2¼	–	–
1835	- -	134	–	–	–

ANTRIM—*continued.*

—	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Rye.	Bere.
	Tons.	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*
Lisburn:					
1826	600	2,600	120	–	–
1827	600	2,600	100	–	–
1828	600	2,680	120	–	–
1829	600	2,700	130	–	–
1830	600	2,750	140	–	–
1831	600	2,860	150	–	–
1832	600	2,890	160	–	–
1833	600	2,680	160	–	–
1834	600	2,850	180	–	–
1835	600	3,000	180	–	–

—	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Rye.	Bere.
	Tons.	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*
Larne:					
1826	600	950	25	–	–
1827	650	900	30	–	–
1828	715	950	25	–	–
1829	725	1,000	35	–	–
1830	750	1,050	25	–	–
1831	780	1,000	–	–	–
1832	800	1,080	–	–	–
1833	830	1,100	–	–	–
1834	880	1,250	–	–	–
1835	860	1,300	–	–	–

ARMAGH.

Armagh:*					
1826	1,700	- -	401	–	–
1827	2,141	- -	679	–	–
1828	2,448	- -	545	–	–
1829	2,304	- -	1,321	–	–
1830	2,524	- -	1,196	–	–
1831	2,182	- -	977	–	–
1832	2,734	- -	964	–	–
1833	3,817	- -	723	–	–
1834	4,861	- -	761	–	–
1835	5,131	- -	779	–	–
Middletown:					
1828	- -	140	–	–	–
1829	- -	188	–	–	–
1830	- -	138	–	–	–
1831	- -	164	- -	14	226
1832	- -	210	- -	19	236
1833	- -	269	- -	20	246
1834	- -	219	- -	19	255
1835	- -	260	- -	21	309
Keady:					
1833	- -	50	–	–	–
1834	- -	1,250	–	–	–
1835	- -	1,371	–	–	–
Portadown:					
1826	1,757	1,804	576	- -	41
1827	1,785	1,915	585	- -	50
1828	2,642	2,976	598	- -	60
1829	3,702	3,192	720	- -	136
1830	4,558	3,545	616	- -	98
1831	4,589	3,970	697	- -	154
1832	4,960	3,982	726	- -	200
1833	4,981	3,998	612	3	131
1834	6,046	3,940	763	80	173
1835	7,477	4,953	768	10	108
Lurgan:					
1826	549	1,034	834	25	615
1827	656	1,289	911	24	622
1828	762	1,905	789	21	503
1829	700	1,794	496	22	963
1830	830	1,614	412	20	779
1831	451	2,067	247	21	607
1832	772	2,173	269	30	969
1833	838	212	143	17	1,137
1834	576	331	137	19	1,196
1835	558	538	239	40	1,037

Tanderagee:					
1826	1,600	306	–	–	–
1827	1,650	310	–	–	–
1828	1,850	520	–	–	–
1829	1,940	598	–	–	–
1830	2,146	765	–	–	–
1831	2,008	936	–	–	–
1832	2,074	600	–	–	–
1833	2,063	464	–	–	–
1834	1,768	370	–	–	–
1835	1,756	506	–	–	–
Forkhill:					
1826	- -	8¼	–	–	–
1827	- -	13	–	–	–
1828	- -	21¼	–	–	–
1829	- -	179	–	–	–
1830	- -	201	–	–	–
1831	- -	581¼	–	–	–
1832	- -	520	–	–	–
1833	- -	345	–	–	–
1834	- -	419	–	–	–
1835	- -	815	–	–	–
Crossmaglen:					
1826	- -	350	–	–	–
1827	- -	350	–	–	–
1828	- -	437	–	–	–
1829	- -	455	–	–	–
1830	- -	481¼	–	–	–
1831	- -	490	–	–	–
1832	- -	500	–	–	–
1833	- -	502¼	–	–	–
1834	- -	456	–	–	–
1835	- -	350	–	–	–
Newry:					
1826	7,000	25,140	3,500		
1827	7,100	24,800	3,540		
1828	7,050	24,650	3,580		
1829	7,190	24,700	3,600		
1830	7,280	24,360	3,520		
1831	7,360	24,150	3,600		
1832	7,450	24,100	3,590		
1833	7,560	24,000	3,570		
1834	7,630	23,940	3,590		
1835	7,710	23,850	3,610		

This Return is very vague, and made entirely from *private* information.

Large quantities of Grain are expected from Newry.

* No account of the sale of Oats, as the Cranemaster who came in office in the year 1826 was put out 1 Nov. 1835, and has destroyed his Books.

Appendix, No. 18.

CAVAN.

—	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Rye.	Bere.
	Tons.	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*
Cavan:	- - No record whatever kept by the weighmasters, and no information could be obtained.				
Swanlinbar:					
1826		50	–	–	–
1827		56	–	–	–
1828		60	–	–	–
1829		48	–	–	–
1830		55	–	–	–
1831		68	–	–	–
1832		70	–	–	–
1833		76	–	–	–
1834		80	–	–	–
1835		84	–	–	–
Ballyconnell:					
1826	216	215	–	–	–
1827	216	215	–	–	–
1828	218	250	–	–	–
1829	230	228	–	–	–
1830	250	240	–	–	–
1831	250	230	–	–	–
1832	260	225	–	–	–
1833	300	220	–	–	–
1834	270	322	–	–	–
1835	280	430	–	–	–
Bawnboy:					
1826		130	–	–	–
1827		132	–	–	–
1828		140	–	–	–
1829		160	–	–	–
1830		180	–	–	–
1831		182	–	–	–
1832		186	–	–	–
1833		190	–	–	–
1834		200	–	–	–
1835		182	–	–	–
Virginia:					
1826		782	–	–	–
1827		782	–	–	–
1828		875	–	–	–
1829		875	–	–	–
1830		875	–	–	–
1831		875	–	–	–
1832		962	–	–	–
1833		1,050	–	–	–
1834		1,050	–	–	–
1835		1,050	–	–	–
Bally-James-Duff:					
1826		612	–	–	–
1827		612	–	–	–
1828		700	–	–	–
1829		700	–	–	–
1830		700	–	–	–
1831		787	–	–	–
1832		787	–	–	–
1833		875	–	–	–
1834		962	–	–	–
1835		1,050	–	–	–
Mullagh:					
1829		43¼	–	–	–
1830		52	–	–	–
1831		87	–	–	–
1832		87	–	–	–
1833		131¼	–	–	–
1834		131¼	–	–	–
1835		174	–	–	–

—	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Rye.	Bere.
	Tons.	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*
Kingscourt:					
1826		1,137	–	–	–
1827		1,043½	–	–	–
1828		1,003¼	–	–	–
1829		915	–	–	–
1830	7½	1,282	–	–	–
1831		1,312	–	–	–
1832		1,374	–	–	–
1833		1,365	–	–	–
1834		1,468¼	–	–	–
1835		1,487	–	–	–
Bailieboro':					
1826		875	–	–	–
1827		993	–	–	–
1828		757	–	–	–
1829		892	–	–	–
1830		1,102	–	–	–
1831		1,015	–	–	–
1832		1,025	–	–	–
1833		1,262	–	–	–
1834		1,242	–	–	–
1835		1,354	–	–	–
Shercock:					
1826		962	–	–	–
1827		893¼	–	–	–
1828		700	–	–	–
1829		826½	–	–	–
1830		936¼	–	–	–
1831		932	–	–	–
1832		1,009¼	–	–	–
1833		1,822½	–	–	–
1834		1,111¼	–	–	–
1835		1,197	–	–	–
Killisandra:					
1828		1,450	55	–	–
1829		1,203	50	–	–
1830		1,415¼	77	33¼	–
1831		1,642	65	55½	–
1832		2,112	117¼	61¼	–
1833		1,923	127	43½	–
1834		1,894½	77	10½	–
1835	60½	1,269	68¼	–	–
Belturbet:					
1826	43¼	1,820	–	–	–
1827	343¼	2,578¼	–	–	–
1828	183	1,132¼	–	–	–
1829	342	3,006	–	–	–
1830	295	2,195	119	165	151
1831	245¼	2,603	154¼	156¼	201
1832	428¼	3,538	59¼	124	76
1833	344	4,275	175	377	96¼
1834	134¼	3,252	442	1,021¼	167
1835	387¾	1,368	790¼	1,136	143
Cootehill:					
1826		56¼	–	–	–
1827		60	–	–	–
1828		61¼	–	–	–
1829		65	–	–	–
1830		67	–	–	–
1831		75	–	–	–
1832		76¼	–	–	–
1833		78¼	–	–	–
1834		86½	–	–	–
1835		93¾	–	–	–
Tullyvin:					
1830		930¼	–	–	–
1831		1,532	–	–	–
1832		1,010	–	–	–
1833		1,991¼	–	–	–
1834		2,157¼	–	–	–
1835		2,020¼	–	–	–

553

DONEGAL.

Appendix, No. 18.

—	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Rye.	Bere.
	Tons.	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*
Raphoe:					
1826	- -	47	–	–	–
1827	- -	54½	–	–	–
1828	- -	70¾	–	–	–
1829	- -	63½	–	–	–
1830	- -	78	–	–	–
1831	- -	54	–	–	–
1832	- -	47	–	–	–
1833	- -	94	–	–	–
1834	- -	117	–	–	–
1835	- -	115½	–	–	–
Ballybofey:					
1826	- -	381	18¾	–	–
1827	- -	375	18	–	–
1828	- -	372	17½	–	–
1829	- -	369	17	–	–
1830	- -	358	16	–	–
1831	- -	345	12	–	–
1832	- -	334	10½	–	–
1833	- -	330	9¾	–	–
1834	- -	325	7¾	–	–
1835	- -	321	6	–	–
Castlefin:					
1827	- -	280	–	–	–
1828	- -	200	–	–	–
1829	- -	200	–	–	–
1830	50	400	20	–	–
1831	80	400	20	–	–
1832	70	400	25	–	–
1833	60	600	40	–	–
1834	200	800	60	–	–
1835	300	1,000	80	–	–
Buncrana:					
1826	- -	300	200	–	–
1827	- -	390	200	–	–
1828	- -	400	220	–	–
1829	- -	450	170	–	–
1830	- -	475	150	–	–
1831	- -	525	150	–	–
1832	- -	1,000	250	–	–
1833	6¾	800	200	–	–
1834	5	515	100	–	–
1835	1	700	90	–	–
Ballyshannon:					
1827	- -	792	–	–	–
1828	- -	1,850	–	–	–
1829	- -	2,413	642	–	–
1830	- -	2,138	771	–	–
1831	- -	1,853	863	–	–
1832	- -	2,360	806	–	–
1833	- -	2,882	1,106	–	–
1834	- -	3,242	1,060	–	–
1835	- -	2,434	1,020	–	–
Donegal:					
1827	- -	250	–	–	–
1828	- -	610	–	–	–
1829	- -	1,870	–	–	–
1830	- -	1,418	–	–	–
1831	- -	1,479	–	–	–
1832	- -	2,007	–	–	–
1833	6	3,075	53	–	–
1834	20	2,619	91	–	–
1835	- -	1,443	–	–	–

—	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Rye.	Bere.
	Tons.	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*
Ramelton:					
1826	40	50	- -	- -	130
1827	70	90	- -	- -	160
1828	90	146	- -	- -	209
1829	120	260	- -	- -	250
1830	150	460	- -	- -	340
1831	190	640	- -	- -	420
1832	210	840	- -	- -	500
1833	408	760	- -	- -	470
1834	590	720	- -	- -	396
1835	760	640	60	- -	240
Letterkenny:					
1826	- -	1,007¾	15¾	–	–
1827	- -	1,296¾	163½	–	–
1828	- -	2,053	54½	–	–
1829	- -	2,064½	77½	–	–
1830	- -	1,650¼	85	–	–
1831	- -	1,841½	85½	–	–
1832	- -	2,175¾	–	–	–
1833	- -	1,691	12	–	–
1834	9¾	1,441½	–	–	–
1835	21¾	1,283½	50	–	–
Milford:					
1826	- -	350	- -	- -	170
1827	- -	420	- -	- -	165
1828	- -	400	- -	- -	220
1829	- -	460	- -	- -	195
1830	60	450	- -	- -	220
1831	- -	500	- -	- -	200
1832	- -	565	- -	- -	232
1833	- -	684	- -	- -	340
1834	92	470	- -	- -	270
1835	51	350	- -	- -	220
Mulroy:					
1833	- -	- -	- -	- -	133
1834	- -	- -	- -	- -	130
1835	- -	- -	- -	- -	78
Crossroads:					
1826	- -	4	1 5/16	–	–
1827	- -	4	1 5/16	–	–
1828	- -	4	1 5/16	–	–
1829	- -	99	19½	–	–
1830	- -	58¼	1 5/16	–	–
1831	- -	115½	1 1/20	–	–
1832	- -	99⅞	2⅝	–	–
1833	- -	69½	4	–	–
1834	- -	82⅜	7⅞	–	–
1835	- -	82¼	10	–	–
Dunfanaghey:					
1831	- -	156	–	–	–
1832	- -	211	–	–	–
1833	- -	187	50	–	–
1834	- -	233	60	–	–
1835	- -	150	60	–	–
Carndonagh:					
1826	- -	3,100	1,048	31	–
1827	- -	3,090	1,040	30	–
1828	- -	3,084	1,032	29	–
1829	- -	3,030	1,025	27	–
1830	- -	3,034	1,029	31	–
1831	- -	3,060	1,040	28	6
1832	- -	3,030	1,024	- -	26
1833	- -	3,029	1,019	17	35
1834	- -	3,018	1,014	- -	34
1835	- -	3,000	1,008	- -	40

continued.)

Appendix, No. 18.

DONEGAL—*continued.*

—	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Rye.	Bere.
	Tons.	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*
Movill:					
1831	- -	1,340	906	–	–
1832	- -	1,860	1,014	–	–
1833	- -	2,017	1,050	–	–
1834	- -	2,760	1,470	–	–
1835	- -	2,376	1,744	–	–
Ardara:					
1826	- -	16			
1827	- -	48			
1828	- -	176¼	-- It is stated that all		
1829	- -	176¼	the Barley grown and		
1830	- -	170	sold in this district		
1831	- -	175	is sold privately, and		
1832	- -	181	used in illicit distil-		
1833	- -	181	lation.		
1834	- -	332			
1835	- -	465¼			
Killybegs:					
1828	- -	262¼	–	–	–
1829	- -	605	–	–	–
1830	- -	244	–	–	–
1831	- -	455½	–	–	–
1832	- -	1,131	–	–	–
1833	- -	355	–	–	–
1834	- -	151¼	–	–	–
1835	- -	196½	–	–	–

—	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Rye.	Bere.
	Tons.	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*
Dunkankly:					
1829	- -	191	–	–	–
1830	- -	160	–	–	–
1831	- -	195	–	–	–
1832	- -	144½	–	–	–
1833	- -	140	–	–	–
1834	- -	74	–	–	–
1835	- -	166½	–	–	–
Mountcharles:					
1826	- -	16¾	–	–	–
1827	- -	17¾	–	–	–
1828	- -	18¾	–	–	–
1829	- -	12¼	–	–	–
1830	- -	10	–	–	–
1831	- -	9½	–	–	–
1832	- -	6¾	–	–	–
1833	- -	4¾	–	–	–
1834	- -	4¾	–	–	–
1835	- -	4¾	–	–	–
Rutland:					
1826	- -	105	–	–	–
1827	- -	105	–	–	–
1828	- -	105	–	–	–
1829	- -	105	–	–	–
1830	- -	105	–	–	–
1831	- -	105	–	–	–
1832	- -	105	–	–	–
1833	- -	105	–	–	–
1834	- -	105	–	–	–
1835	- -	105	–	–	–

DOWN.

Downpatrick:						
1826	1,267	540	920	150	200
1827	1,890	490	1,500	150	210
1828	2,000	468	1,200	160	300
1829	1,700	500	1,800	180	269
1830	2,000	475	2,000	200	280
1831	2,000	450	1,500	100	360
1832	2,500	300	2,000	180	376
1833	2,800	460	1,800	190	300
1834	2,900	400	2,000	180	400
1835	3,200	380	2,400	200	450
Portaferry:					
1826	1,550	125	747	–	–
1827	1,440	142	632	40	–
1828	1,490	136	684	–	–
1829	1,520	200	732	–	–
1830	1,526	190	750	–	–
1831	1,590	230	346	–	–
1832	1,400	180	900	–	–
1833	1,500	400	2,500	200	380
1834	1,490	236	1,400	–	–
1835	1,600	244	1,600	–	–
Strangford:					
1826	800	1,000	380	–	–
1827	750	600	300	–	–
1828	900	1,100	400	–	–
1829	1,000	180	643	–	–
1830	900	200	609	–	–
1831	800	180	705	–	–
1832	750	200	760	–	–
1833	600	200	790	–	–
1834	650	180	800	–	–
1835	570	195	800	–	–

Ardglass:					
1826	500	200	800	100	–
1827	430	180	600	180	–
1828	400	100	570	–	–
1829	390	175	560	–	–
1830	400	190	500	80	–
1831	450	100	500	–	–
1832	500	187	470	–	–
1833	450	180	600	–	–
1834	470	100	560	–	–
1835	400	390	300	–	–
Killough:					
1826	900	300	750	200	–
1827	1,500	365	480	150	–
1828	1,479	285	683	–	–
1829	2,000	196	347	–	–
1830	2,000	450	450	–	–
1831	900	280	700	–	–
1832	1,000	200	500	–	–
1833	1,200	175	800	–	–
1834	1,300	246	900	–	–
1835	1,600	200	1,000	–	–
Ballynahinch:					
1826	100	1,000	600	10	2
1827	17	800	5	6	–
1828	5	1,100	700	4	–
1829	6	800	600	5	–
1830	4	1,200	800	6	–
1831	6	100	600	4	–
1832	3	1,600	800	8	–
1833	17	1,500	600	17	–
1834	4	1,600	800	6	–
1835	3	1,700	7	4	–

535

Down—*continued.*

—	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Rye.	Bere.
	Tons.	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*
Killileagh:					
1826	700	150	150	–	–
1827	800	350	200	–	–
1828	850	180	120	–	–
1829	890	210	250	–	–
1830	1,000	311	109	–	–
1831	1,800	200	220	–	–
1832	1,120	280	180	–	–
1833	1,210	320	300	–	–
1834	1,520	180	270	–	–
1835	1,900	200	140	–	–
Banbridge:					
1826	- -	450	–	–	–
1827	- -	630	–	–	–
1828	- -	800	–	–	–
1829	- -	1,040	–	–	–
1830	- -	900	–	–	–
1831	- -	1,175	–	–	–
1832	- -	1,200	–	–	–
1833	- -	840	–	–	–
1834	- -	760	–	–	–
1835	- -	1,330	–	–	–

—	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Rye.	Bere.
	Tons.	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*
Moira:					
1826	189¾	172	–	–	–
1827	195¾	180½	–	–	–
1828	156¾	166¾	186	–	–
1829	162½	170½	165	–	–
1830	182	140	150	–	–
1831	190	169	130	–	–
1832	110	80	70	–	–
1833	189	70	55	–	–
1834	210	100	–	–	–
1835	214	90	–	–	–
Dromore:					
1832	- -	24	–	–	–
1833	- -	12	–	–	–
1834	- -	6	–	–	–
1835	–	–	–	–	–
Newtownards:					
1826	800	800	600	–	–
1827	800	700	800	–	–
1828	1,000	800	800	–	–
1829	1,000	800	1,000	–	–
1830	1,000	900	800	–	–
1831	800	800	700	–	–
1832	900	700	700	–	–
1833	900	700	700	–	–
1834	1,000	700	800	–	–
1835	1,000	700	800	–	–

FERMANAGH.

Enniskillen:					
1826	- -	1,050	- -	30	281 ¼
1827	- -	1,050	- -	30	281 ¼
1828	- -	1,050	- -	30	281 ¼
1829	- -	1,050	- -	30	281 ¼
1830	- -	1,050	- -	30	281 ¼
1831	- -	1,050	- -	30	281 ¼
1832	- -	1,050	- -	30	281 ¼
1833	- -	1,050	- -	30	281 ¼
1834	25	1,327	- -	48¼	405
1835	26¼	1,355	- -	50¼	408
Irvinestown:					
1826	- -	195	–	–	–
1827	- -	195	–	–	–
1828	- -	195	–	–	–
1829	- -	195	–	–	–
1830	- -	195	–	–	–
1831	- -	195	–	–	–
1832	- -	195	–	–	–
1833	- -	195	–	–	–
1834	- -	80½	–	–	–
1835	- -	90	–	–	–
Kish:					
1834	- -	28	- -	- -	22
1835	- -	37	- -	- -	19
Lisnaskea:					
1826	- -	2,534	–	–	–
1827	- -	2,621¼	–	–	–
1828	- -	2,602	–	–	–
1829	- -	209	–	–	–
1830	- -	2,250	–	–	–
1831	- -	2,250	–	–	–
1832	- -	2,265	–	–	–
1833	37½	2,580	- -	7	–
1834	75	2,587	7	14	–
1835	143¼	4,170	14	22½	–

Maguire's Bridge:					
1826	- -	9½	–	–	–
1827	- -	11½	1	–	–
1828	- -	12½	– ⅗	–	–
1829	- -	13	– ⅗	– ⅕	–
1830	- -	21	– ⅖	–	–
1831	- -	17	– ⅕	–	–
1832	- -	17⅕	– ⅖	–	–
1833	- -	20	– ⅖	– ½	–
1834	- -	21½	– ½	– ¼	–
1835	- -	3	– ⅕	–	–
Newton Butler:					
1826	200	82	–	–	–
1827	162½	105	–	–	–
1828	150	82	–	–	–
1829	175	75	–	–	–
1830	175	90	–	–	–
1831	187½	97	–	–	–
1832	162½	97	–	–	–
1833	162½	105	–	–	–
1834	137½	105	–	–	–
1835	125	97	–	–	–
Derrygonnelly:					
1831	- -	44	–	–	–
1832	- -	55	–	–	–
1833	- -	42	–	–	–
1834	- -	30	–	–	–
1835	- -	37	–	–	–

Appendix, No. 18.

LONDONDERRY.*

	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Rye.	Bere.
	Tons.	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*
City of Londonderry:					
1826	- -	3,701	- -	- -	1,206
1827	- -	5,273	- -	- -	1,251
1828	- -	5,691	- -	- -	1,737
1829	- -	5,566	- -	- -	1,729
1830	- -	4,888	- -	- -	1,833
1831	- -	4,903	- -	- -	1,956
1832	- -	8,413	- -	- -	1,755
1833	500	8,512	- -	- -	2,732
1834	570	3,582	- -	- -	3,210
1835	740	4,320	- -	- -	2,775
Newtownlimavady:					
1826	775	1,551	- -	- -	775
1827	845	1,691	- -	- -	845
1828	878	1,756	- -	- -	878
1829	1,011	2,022	- -	- -	1,011
1830	1,113	2,227	- -	- -	1,113
1831	934	1,869	- -	- -	934
1832	1,017	2,034	- -	- -	1,017
1833	887	1,764	- -	- -	887
1834	1,125	2,251	- -	- -	1,125
1835	926	1,853	- -	- -	926
Dungiven:					
1826	258	517	- -	- -	258
1827	281	563	- -	- -	281
1828	292	585	- -	- -	292
1829	337	674	- -	- -	337
1830	371	742	- -	- -	371
1831	311	623	- -	- -	311
1832	339	678	- -	- -	339
1833	295	588	- -	- -	295
1834	375	750	- -	- -	375
1835	308	617	- -	- -	308
Garvagh:					
1830	- -	340	—	—	—
1831	- -	350	—	—	—
1832	- -	360	—	—	—
1833	- -	360	—	—	—
1834	- -	380	—	—	—
1835	- -	330	—	—	—
Maghera:					
1826	- -	681	100	—	—
1827	- -	681	100	—	—
1828	- -	692	126	—	—
1829	- -	689	112	—	—
1830	- -	690	114	—	—
1831	- -	690	114	—	—
1832	- -	689	115	—	—
1833	- -	689	114	—	—
1834	8	616	17	2	—
1835	8	616	17	2	—
Moneymore:					
1826	47	210	2	- $\frac{1}{2}$	—
1827	44	189	3	- $\frac{1}{2}$	—
1828	44	194	$2\frac{1}{2}$	- $\frac{1}{2}$	—
1829	48	232	$3\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	—
1830	47	214	$3\frac{3}{4}$	- $\frac{3}{4}$	—
1831	56	226	4	2	—
1832	56	219	4	$1\frac{1}{4}$	—
1833	64	244	4	$1\frac{1}{4}$	—
1834	64	251	$4\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	—
1835	68	251	$5\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	—
Kilrea:					
1833	18	150	—	—	—
1834	25	210	—	—	—
1835	30	300	—	—	—
Magherafelt:					
1826	- -	400	—	—	—
1827	- -	600	—	—	—
1828	- -	800	—	—	—
1829	200	1,000	—	—	—
1830	300	1,200	—	—	—
1831	350	940	—	—	—
1832	450	900	—	—	—
1833	550	800	—	—	—
1834	800	600	—	—	—
1835	1,000	700	—	—	—

* The present Corn Market has only been established three years. Persons who were in the Grain Trade within the last ten years, have now no representation in Derry. This Return may be considered very inaccurate; it is supposed the trade has rather fallen off lately.

MONAGHAN.

Monaghan:					
1826	$533\frac{1}{2}$	$3,609\frac{1}{2}$	1,044	- -	$202\frac{1}{4}$
1827	$521\frac{1}{4}$	$4,004\frac{1}{4}$	1,184	- -	329
1828	535	3,733	$1,519\frac{1}{4}$	- -	258
1829	850	$4,775\frac{1}{4}$	1,429	- -	$535\frac{1}{4}$
1830	794	4,367	1,637	- -	426
1831	$955\frac{1}{2}$	4,094	1,193	- -	300
1832	$1,353\frac{1}{4}$	6,651	1,349	- -	$420\frac{1}{4}$
1833	1,251	5,971	$1,252\frac{1}{2}$	- -	265
1834	1,340	6,651	1,152	- -	$410\frac{1}{4}$
1835	$1,762\frac{1}{2}$	6,787	$1,597\frac{1}{4}$	- -	580
Castleblaney:					
1826	- -	3,312	—	—	—
1827	- -	$3,281\frac{1}{4}$	—	—	—
1828	- -	3,062	—	—	—
1829	- -	4,662	—	—	
1830	- -	2,940	—	—	—
Castleblaney:—*continued.*					
1831	- -	2,975	—	—	—
1832	- -	2,800	—	—	—
1833	- -	2,625	—	—	—
1834	- -	2,537	—	—	—
1835	- -	2,887	—	—	—
Ballybay:					
1826	- -	1,575	—	—	—
1827	- -	1,662	—	—	—
1828	- -	1,400	—	—	—
1829	- -	1,575	—	—	—
1830	- -	1,312	—	—	—
1831	- -	1,575	—	—	—
1832	- -	1,312	—	—	—
1833	- -	9 62	—	—	—
1834	- -	1,218	—	—	—
1835	- -	1,050	—	—	—

MONAGHAN—*continued.*

—	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Rye.	Bere.
	Tons.	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*
Carrickmacross:					
1826	912¼	5,438¼	2,210	40	120
1827	925	5,451¼	2,230	50	128
1828	937½	5,460	2,240	58	134
1829	937½	5,460	2,290	62	140
1830	950	5,477	2,310	74	150
1831	962½	5,486¼	2,320	76	164
1832	975	5,495	2,340	76	170
1833	996¼	5,547	2,330	75	189
1834	987½	5,502	2,340	77	187¾
1835	1,000	5,511¼	2,340	78	195
Clones:					
1826	937	1,750	500	—	—
1827	1,000	1,750	500	—	—
1828	1,125	1,812	406¼	—	—
1829	1,250	1,750	562	—	—
1830	1,250	1,875	625	—	—
1831	1,250	1,875	750	—	—
1832	1,250	1,906	781¼	—	—
1833	1,281¼	1,937	812	—	—
1834	1,281¼	1,950	875	—	—
1835	1,312	1,950	1,125	—	—

—	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Rye.	Bere.
	Tons.	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*
Rockcorry:					
1829	- -	73	—	—	—
1830	- -	73	—	—	—
1831	- -	73	—	—	—
1832	- -	47	—	—	—
1833	- -	47	—	—	—
1834	- -	7¼	—	—	—
1835	—	—	—	—	—
Newbliss:					
1829	- -	500	—	—	—
1830	- -	500	—	—	—
1831	- -	531	—	—	—
1832	- -	531	—	—	—
1833	- -	450	—	—	—
1834	- -	500	—	—	—
1835	- -	512	—	—	—

TYRONE.

Omagh:					
1826	10	1,417	18		—
1827	12	1,418	20	—	—
1828	12	1,419	20	—	—
1829	15	1,420	21	—	—
1830	11	1,418	17	—	—
1831	15	1,420	22	—	—
1832	17	1,420	23	—	—
1833	17	1,419	23	—	—
1834	15	1,420	21	—	—
1835	17	1,419	23	—	—
Drumquin:					
1833	- -	140	—	—	—
1834	- -	150	—	—	—
1835	- -	156	—	—	—
Beragh:					
1834	- -	140	—	—	—
1835	- -	150	—	—	—
Dromore:					
1835	- -	150	—	—	—
Trillick:					
1835	- -	40	—	—	—
Strabane:					
1826	350	4,200	341¼	—	—
1827	250	4,725	210	—	—
1828	402½	5,075	236¼	—	—
1829	420	5,750	238½	—	—
1830	472½	5,425	223½	—	—
1831	507½	6,125	210	—	—
1832	542½	6,475	258½	—	—
1833	595	6,825	262½	—	—
1834	581½	6,300	217½	—	—
1835	550	6,650	144½	—	—

Newtownstewart:					
1827	- -	43¾	—	—	—
1828	- -	490	—	—	—
1829	- -	525	8½	—	—
1830	- -	735	17	—	—
1831	- -	782½	18¼	—	—
1832	- -	875	25	—	—
1833	- -	892	26¼	—	—
1834	- -	915	23	—	—
1835	- -	910	15	—	—
Gortin:					
1826	- -	- -	131¼	—	—
1827	- -	- -	143	—	—
1828	- -	- -	150¼	—	—
1829	- -	- -	157	—	—
1830	- -	- -	157	—	—
1831	- -	35	78⅓	—	—
1832	- -	36	85	—	—
1833	- -	35	78½	—	—
1834	- -	39¼	68	—	—
1835	- -	306	31	—	—
Castle Derg:					
1826	- -	179	18½	—	—
1827	- -	286	35⅓	—	—
1828	- -	813	46	—	—
1829	- -	876	52	—	—
1830	- -	1,514	51	—	—
1831	- -	1,579	18	—	—
1832	- -	2,115	18½	—	—
1833	- -	1,924	18	—	—
1834	- -	2,286	13	—	—
1835	- -	2,359	18½	—	—

Appendix, No. 18.

TYRONE—*continued.*

	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Rye.	Bere.
	Tons.	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*
Augher:					
1826	- -	94	–	–	–
1827	- -	90	–	–	–
1828	- -	96	–	–	–
1829	- -	91½	–	–	–
1830	- -	107	–	–	–
1831	- -	121½	–	–	–
1832	- -	120	–	–	–
1833	- -	144	–	–	–
1834	- -	150	–	–	–
1835	- -	187½	–	–	–
Fintona:					
1826	- -	140	–	–	–
1827	- -	140	–	–	–
1828	- -	140	–	–	–
1829	- -	150	–	–	–
1830	- -	140	–	–	–
1831	- -	150	–	–	–
1832	- -	150	–	–	–
1833	- -	160	–	–	–
1834	- -	170	–	–	–
1835	- -	175	–	–	–
Fivemiletown:					
1826	- -	100	–	–	–
1827	- -	270	–	–	–
1828	- -	306	–	–	–
1829	- -	324	–	–	–
1830	- -	306	–	–	–
1831	- -	271	–	–	–
1832	- -	320	–	–	–
1833	- -	342	–	–	–
1834	- -	376	–	–	–
1835	- -	360	–	–	–
Ballygawley:					
1826	- -	400	125	- -	45
1827	- -	400	126	- -	43
1828	- -	600	130	- -	46
1829	- -	650	130	- -	46
1830	- -	700	132	- -	45
1831	- -	500	134	- -	47
1832	- -	460	136	- -	46
1833	- -	490	135	- -	47
1834	- -	510	138	- -	45
1835	- -	520	140	- -	50
Aughnacloy:					
1826	15	650	230	10	60
1827	15	740	220	5	100
1828	10	800	227	8	90
1829	7	830	225	6	100
1830	4	834	300	7	94
1831	2	830	370	7	50
1832	1	839	340	8	76
1833	1	844	350	9	73
1834	1	857	367	5	98
1835	9	269	388	7	96

	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Rye.	Bere.
	Tons.	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*
Dungannon:					
1826	- -	3,000	524	20	400
1827	- -	3,250	518	30	324
1828	- -	3,500	609	40	340
1829	- -	3,600	612	50	501
1830	- -	3,700	576	40	338
1831	- -	3,300	630	50	415
1832	- -	400	528	50	438
1833	- -	4,800	506	50	603
1834	- -	4,900	688	100	744
1835	60	4,800	616	60	633
Moy:					
1826	100	100	–	–	–
1827	180	170	–	–	–
1828	255	265	–	–	–
1829	300	310	–	–	–
1830	335	340	–	–	–
1831	400	410	–	–	–
1832	400	440	–	–	–
1833	447	449	–	–	–
1834	540	574	–	–	–
1835	540	566	–	–	–
Caledon:					
1826	734	142	–	–	–
1827	2,077	401	–	–	–
1828	2,326	599	–	–	–
1829	1,968	288	–	–	–
1830	2,673	418	–	–	–
1831	2,325	293	–	–	–
1832	2,249	293	–	–	–
1833	2,558	756	–	–	–
1834	3,440	424	–	–	–
1835	3,135	581	–	–	–
Cookstown:					
1826	10	1,000	25	–	–
1827	20	1,000	25	–	–
1828	25	1,300	23	–	–
1829	35	1,500	20	–	–
1830	70	1,250	–	–	–
1831	20	1,040	–	–	–
1832	50	1,240	–	–	–
1833	120	1,500	–	–	–
1834	300	1,650	–	–	–
1835	150	1,800	–	–	–
Stewartstown:					
1832	- -	600	–	–	–
1833	833	650	–	–	–
1834	500	650	–	–	–
1835	300	750	–	–	–
Coal Island:					
1829	2,000	500	–	–	–
1830	2,000	500	–	–	–
1831	2,000	500	–	–	–
1832	2,000	560	–	–	–
1833	2,000	560	–	–	–
1834	2,000	569	–	–	–
1835	2,000	560	–	–	–

PROVINCE OF CONNAUGHT.

Sir, Dublin Castle, 28 April 1836.

Referring to my communication of the 19th instant, forwarding Returns from the Provinces of *Leinster* and *Ulster* of the Quantities of Grain sold in the several Markets in these Provinces for the last Ten Years, I have now the honour to transmit herewith a similar Return for the Province of *Connaught*, for the purpose of being laid before the Select Committee on Agriculture.

I have, &c.

To Charles Shaw Lefevre, Esq. (signed) *T. Drummond.*

Sir, Dublin Castle, 28 April 1836.

Referring to my communication of the 22d instant, forwarding a Return from the Province of *Munster* of the Average Prices of Wheat, Barley and Oats, per Imperial Quarter, during the months from August to December, in the years 1833, 1834 and 1835, I have now the honour to transmit herewith a similar Return, which has been just received from the Province of *Connaught*, for the purpose of being laid before the Select Committee on Agriculture.

I have, &c.

To Charles Shaw Lefevre, Esq. (signed) *T. Drummond.*

Sir, Dublin Castle, 26 April 1836.

I have the honour to enclose herewith the Returns called for by the Select Committee on Agriculture on the 9th and 22d March last, and beg to state, the delay in their transmission was caused by the difficulty in procuring the requisite information from the proper authorities.

I have, &c.

For Major Warburton,

To T. Drummond, Esq. (signed) *H. B. Warburton.*

COUNTY OF CLARE.

RETURN, showing the Quantity of Grain sold in the above County, from the Year 1826 to 1835 inclusive.

Market Towns.	1826.			1827.			1828.			1829.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
	Barrels.	*Barrels.*	*Barrels.*	*Barrels.*	*Barrels.*	*Barrels.*	*Barrels.*	*Barrels.*	*Barrels.*	*Barrels.*	*Barrels.*	*Barrels.*
Ennis - -	4,408	4,837	58,324	11,323	2,778	58,988	18,45	5,473	63,419	17,586	2,861	41,125
Clare - -	- -	22	8,482	- -	- -	6,993	1,259	1,240	7,860	1,058	937	7,049
Killaloe - -	- -	- -	24,975	- -	- -	16,104	- -	- -	26,150	- -	- -	28,440
Kilrush - -	1,100	2,812	38,715	2,350	3,346	36,289	3,500	4,750	47,998	3,750	6,440	35,795
Total - -	5,508	7,671	130,496	13,673	6,124	118,374	23,211	11,463	145,427	22,394	10,238	112,409

	1830.			1831.			1832.			1833.		
Ennis - -	16,929	8,549	44,404	19,721	8,797	43,568	24,122	4,297	46,156	29,655	1,579	42,625
Clare - -	3,191	2,345	8,411	2,010	2,150	14,529	3,174	1,989	12,768	1,878	346	7,931
Killaloe - -	- -	- -	26,775	- -	1,000	30,554	600	1,000	25,670	3,360	- -	37,073
Kilrush - -	4,575	11,121	30,746	4,950	10,834	38,309	4,850	10,090	48,363	11,593	11,634	43,105
Total - -	24,695	22,015	110,336	26,681	22,781	126,960	132,746	17,376	136,957	46,486	13,559	130,734

	1834.			1835.		
Ennis - -	19,928	6,334	29,715	22,285	6,761	33,971
Clare - -	2,998	87	8,727	4,831	2,530	22,204
Killaloe - -	5,460	209	35,665	5,036	170	33,384
Kilrush - -	19,106	20,229	36,396	24,835	21,234	29,910
Total - -	47,492	26,859	110,503	56,987	30,695	119,469

COUNTY OF GALWAY.

RETURN of the Total Quantity of Grain sold in each of the several Markets in the above County during each of the last Ten Years (so far as the same can be made up), distinguishing each sort of Grain.

MARKETS.	1826.			1827.			1828.			1829.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Ahascragh	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	60	48	455
Ballinasloe	585	260	1,960	585	260	1,960	585	260	1,960	585	260	1,960
Ballygar	- -	- -	910	- -	- -	910	- -	- -	910	- -	- -	910
Clifden	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	25	30
Creggs	- -	- -	546	- -	- -	546	- -	- -	546	- -	- -	546
Dunmore	- -	- -	1,440	- -	- -	1,440	- -	- -	1,450	- -	- -	1,500
Eyrecourt	21	58	1,365	21	58	1,365	21	58	1,365	21	58	1,365
Galway	9,619	2,653	7,416	10,898	2,600	9,631	12,818	2,640	14,960	12,678	2,651	10,314
Gort	468	62	378	386	60	351	482	59	352	515	67	402
Kinvara	187	100	227	225	200	236	256	200	248	258	250	254
Laurencetown	- -	- -	68	- -	- -	68	- -	- -	68	- -	- -	68
Loughrea	- -	- -	3,325	- -	- -	3,325	- -	- -	3,325	- -	- -	3,325
Monivea	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mount Bellew	325	- -	1,274	325	- -	1,274	325	- -	1,274	325	- -	1,274
Portumna	745	150	352	1,427	442	853	2,276	518	981	1,790	316	741
Tuam	468	364	2,340	468	364	2,340	468	364	2,340	468	364	2,340
Woodford	62	- -	184	75	- -	175	75	—	184	100	—	192
	12,480	3,647	21,785	14,410	3,984	24,474	17,306	4,099	29,963	16,800	4,039	25,676

	1830.			1831.			1832.			1833.		
Ahascragh	60	48	455	60	48	455	60	48	455	60	48	455
Ballinasloe	585	260	1,960	585	260	1,960	585	260	1,960	780	312	2,502
Ballygar	- -	- -	910	- -	- -	910	- -	- -	910	- -	- -	910
Clifden	- -	30	40	- -	40	60	- -	45	100	-	60	130
Creggs	- -	- -	546	- -	- -	546	- -	- -	546	- -	- -	546
Dunmore	- -	- -	1,500	- -	- -	1,440	- -	- -	1,280	- -	- -	1,630
Eyrecourt	21	58	1,365	21	58	1,365	21	58	1,365	21	58	1,365
Galway	13,104	2,730	11,052	14,173	2,713	9,904	40,177	2,600	12,686	15,768	3,076	10,539
Gort	491	60	351	475	59	394	525	67	420	527	50	399
Kinvara	300	240	263	275	270	276	312	260	289	375	272	299
Laurencetown	- -	- -	68	- -	- -	68	- -	- -	68	- -	- -	68
Loughrea	- -	- -	3,325	- -	- -	3,325	- -	- -	3,325	- -	- -	3,325
Monivea	54	1	316	12	1	525	100	2	796	92	2	795
Mount Bellew	325	- -	1,274	325	- -	1,274	325	- -	1,274	325	- -	1,274
Portumna	1,823	326	426	1,954	417	363	1,951	322	496	3,410	320	750
Tuam	468	364	2,340	468	364	2,340	468	364	2,340	468	364	2,340
Woodford	112	- -	192	112	- -	201	125	- -	201	125	- -	201
	17,343	4,117	26,383	18,460	4,230	25,406	44,649	4,026	28,511	21,951	4,562	27,528

	1834.			1835.			TOTAL.		
Ahascragh	60	48	455	60	48	455	420	336	3,185
Ballinasloe	780	312	2,502	780	312	2,502	6,435	2,756	21,226
Ballygar	- -	- -	910	- -	- -	910	- -	- -	9,100
Clifden	- -	140	220	- -	150	289	- -	490	869
Creggs	- -	- -	546	- -	- -	546	- -	- -	5,460
Dunmore	- -	- -	1,600	- -	- -	1,680	- -	- -	14,960
Eyrecourt	21	58	1,365	21	58	1,365	210	580	13,650
Galway	16,757	2,683	11,525	11,448	2,601	15,902	157,440	26,947	113,929
Gort	500	46	411	600	45	436	4,969	575	3,894
Kinvara	388	270	303	395	280	315	2,971	2,342	2,710
Laurencetown	- -	- -	68	- -	- -	68	- -	- -	680
Loughrea	- -	- -	3,325	- -	- -	3,325	- -	- -	33,250
Monivea	91	2	794	88	1	700	437	9	3,926
Mount Bellew	325	- -	1,274	325	- -	1,274	3,250	- -	12,740
Portumna	3,642	426	631	2,838	369	542	21,856	3,606	6,135
Tuam	468	364	2,340	468	364	2,340	4,680	3,640	23,400
Woodford	125	- -	227	125	- -	227	1,036	- -	1,984
	23,157	4,349	28,496	17,148	4,228	32,876	203,704	41,281	271,098

Portumna Market, sold, 1832, 84 Barrels of Rape, 16 st. per Barrel.
" " 1833, 153 " " "
TOTAL - - 237

23 April 1836.

Barth Warburton, Com^r and Acting Sub-Inspector.

341

COUNTY OF LEITRIM.

Appendix, No. 18.

RETURN, showing the QUANTITY of GRAIN sold in each of the several Market Towns in the County of *Leitrim*, during each of the last Ten Years (so far as the same can be ascertained), and distinguishing each sort of Grain.

MARKET TOWNS.	YEARS.	Barrels of Wheat.	Barrels of Oats.	Barrels of Rye.	Barrels of Barley.	Barrels of Bere.	Entire Quantity in Barrels, of Grain sold in each Market per Year.	REMARKS.
Cork-on-Shannon.	1826	270	2,320	209	- -	- -	2,799	—
	1827	196	3,610	170	- -	- -	3,976	
	1828	230	2,360	360	- -	- -	2,950	
	1829	120	3,475	109	- -	- -	3,704	
	1830	150	2,000	120	- -	- -	2,270	
	1831	160	3,200	200	- -	- -	3,560	
	1832	220	2,850	229	- -	- -	3,299	
	1833	260	3,720	90	- -	- -	4,070	
	1834	250	2,370	120	- -	- -	2,740	
	1835	246	2,160	118	- -	- -	2,524	
TOTAL - -	- -	2,102	28,065	1,725	- -	- -	31,892	
Drumsna -	1826	483	8,987	- -	- -	- -	9,470	- - Chief Constable Ferrall having made this Return, remarks as follows; viz. " Not being able to obtain such information as would enable me to make a Return of each year separately, I had to take the last year's sale as the average." *J. B.* S. I. P.
	1827	483	8,987	- -	- -	- -	9,470	
	1828	483	8,987	- -	- -	- -	9,470	
	1829	483	8,987	- -	- -	- -	9,470	
	1830	483	8,987	- -	- -	- -	9,470	
	1831	483	8,987	- -	- -	- -	9,470	
	1832	483	8,987	- -	- -	- -	9,470	
	1833	483	8,987	- -	- -	- -	9,470	
	1834	483	8,987	- -	- -	- -	9,470	
	1835	483	8,987	- -	- -	- -	9,470	
TOTAL - -	- -	4,830	89,870	- -	- -	- -	94,700	
Drumshanbo	1826	- -	15,600	- -	- -	- -	15,600	—
	1827	- -	16,640	- -	- -	- -	16,640	
	1828	- -	17,680	- -	- -	- -	17,680	
	1829	- -	19,760	- -	- -	- -	19,760	
	1830	- -	19,760	- -	- -	- -	19,760	
	1831	- -	20,384	- -	- -	- -	20,384	
	1832	- -	20,384	- -	- -	- -	20,384	
	1833	- -	21,008	- -	- -	- -	21,008	
	1834	- -	21,840	- -	- -	- -	21,840	
	1835	- -	23,400	- -	- -	- -	23,400	
TOTAL - -	- -	- -	196,456	- -	- -	- -	196,456	
Jamestown -	1826	1,449	- -	- -	- -	- -	1,449	- - Chief Constable Ferrall's remarks are upon this as upon Drumsna. *J. B.*, S. I. P.
	1827	1,449	- -	- -	- -	- -	1,449	
	1828	1,449	- -	- -	- -	- -	1,449	
	1829	1,449	- -	- -	- -	- -	1,449	
	1830	1,449	- -	- -	- -	- -	1,449	
	1831	1,449	- -	- -	- -	- -	1,449	
	1832	1,449	- -	- -	- -	- -	1,449	
	1833	1,449	- -	- -	- -	- -	1,449	
	1834	1,449	- -	- -	- -	- -	1,449	
	1835	1,449	- -	- -	- -	- -	1,449	
TOTAL - -	- -	14,490	- -	- -	- -	- -	14,490	

Appendix, No. 18.

LEITRIM—*continued.*

MARKET TOWNS.	YEARS.	Barrels of Wheat.	Barrels of Oats.	Barrels of Rye.	Barrels of Barley.	Barrels of Bere.	Entire Quantity in Barrels of Grain sold in each Market per Year.	REMARKS.
Mohill	1826	- -	5,200	- -	- -	- -	5,200	-- *See* Chief Constable Ferrall's remarks upon this in the preceding page. *J. B.* S. I. P.
	1827	- -	5,200	- -	- -	- -	5,200	
	1828	- -	5,200	- -	- -	- -	5,200	
	1829	- -	5,200	- -	- -	- -	5,200	
	1830	- -	5,200	- -	- -	- -	5,200	
	1831	- -	5,200	- -	- -	- -	5,200	
	1832	- -	5,200	- -	- -	- -	5,200	
	1833	- -	5,200	- -	- -	- -	5,200	
	1834	- -	5,200	- -	- -	- -	5,200	
	1835	- -	5,200	- -	- -	- -	5,200	
TOTAL - -	- -	- -	52,000	- -	- -	- -	52,000	
Dromod	1832	- -	500	- -	- -	- -	500	-- This Market is established only four years. *J. B.* S. I. P.
	1833	- -	500	- -	- -	- -	500	
	1834	- -	500	- -	- -	- -	500	
	1835	- -	500	- -	- -	- -	500	
TOTAL - -	- -	- -	2,000	- -	- -	- -	2,000	
Ballinamore	1826	- -	3,565	- -	- -	- -	3,565	-- Chief Constable Raymond remarks— "The average for each is 3,565 barrels."
	1827	- -	3,565	- -	- -	- -	3,565	
	1828	- -	3,565	- -	- -	- -	3,565	
	1829	- -	3,565	- -	- -	- -	3,565	
	1830	- -	3,565	- -	- -	- -	3,565	
	1831	- -	3,565	- -	- -	- -	3,565	
	1832	- -	3,565	- -	- -	- -	3,565	
	1833	- -	3,565	- -	- -	- -	3,565	
	1834	- -	3,565	- -	- -	- -	3,565	
	1835	- -	3,565	- -	- -	- -	3,565	
TOTAL - -	- -	- -	35,650	- -	- -	- -	35,650	
Fenagh	1831	2,228	- -	- -	- -	- -	2,228	-- This Market is established only five years. Chief Constable Raymond gives the average as 2,228 barrels. *J. B.* S. I. P.
	1832	2,228	- -	- -	- -	- -	2,228	
	1833	2,228	- -	- -	- -	- -	2,228	
	1834	2,228	- -	- -	- -	- -	2,228	
	1835	2,228	- -	- -	- -	- -	2,228	
TOTAL - -	- -	11,140	- -	- -	- -	- -	11,140	
Carrigallen	1834	- -	160	- -	- -	- -	160	- - This is the average for two years, being the length of time the Market is established.
	1835	- -	160	- -	- -	- -	160	
TOTAL - -	- -	- -	320	- -	- -	- -	320	

Dromahair - - - - The Corn in this neighbourhood is sold at Sligo.

Drumkeerin - - - - - The Corn in this neighbourhood is disposed of as above.

Manorhamilton - - - - As above.

Carrick-on-Shannon, 30 March 1836.

J. Brown,
Sub-Inspector of Police.

COUNTY OF MAYO.

RETURN, showing the QUANTITY of WHEAT, OATS and BARLEY sold in the principal Market Towns in the above County during the last Ten Years.

DISTRICTS.	MARKET TOWNS.	1826.	1827.	1828.	1829.	1830.	1831.	1832.	1833.	1834.	1835.
		WHEAT.									
		Tons.	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*
Burrishoole	Newport	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	23	- -	- -	75	12
Carra	Castlebar	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
	Ballyvary	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Clanmorris	Claremorris	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Costello	Ballaghdereen	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
	Ballyhaunis	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Kilmain	Ballinrobe	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Murrisk	Westport	600	580	600	875	812	844	998	923	1,597	1,709
Tyrawley	Ballina	- -	- -	- -	790	625	670	870	1,000	1,215	1,400
	Killalla	- -	- -	- -	- -	190	131	75	82	27	23
TOTAL		600	580	600	1,665	1,627	1,668	1,943	2,005	2,914	3,144
		OATS.									
Burrishoole	Newport	1,283	1,560	1,610	1,725	1,622	1,414	1,810	1,650	1,200	1,000
Carra	Castlebar	638	543	579	1,006	1,500	1,652	1,319	1,168	1,587	1,428
	Ballyvary	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	780
Clanmorris	Claremorris	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	2,000	2,000	2,000	1,800	2,000	2,000
Costello	Ballaghdereen	- -	78	455	498	138	462	419	406	382	407
	Ballyhaunis	- -	445	445	445	446	445	446	445	446	445
Kilmain	Ballinrobe	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Murrisk	Westport	13,000	13,600	13,525	14,010	13,700	14,580	14,875	14,960	15,740	15,720
Tyrawley	Ballina	3,688	8,728	12,413	9,846	7,473	10,559	9,510	5,899	7,785	7,609
	Killalla	5,100	5,210	5,128	4,696	4,297	3,379	3,788	3,514	3,700	3,218
TOTAL		25,509	31,964	35,955	34,026	31,176	34,491	34,167	29,842	32,840	32,607
		BARLEY.									
Burrishoole	Newport	76	80	103	248	250	210	197	103	230	275
Carra	Castlebar	50	50	50	50	80	176	108	75	84	76
	Ballyvary	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Clanmorris	Claremorris	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Costello	Ballaghdereen	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
	Ballyhaunis	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Kilmain	Ballinrobe	- -	- -	- -	173	147	160	147	160	133	153
Murrisk	Westport	400	950	1,050	1,100	890	960	1,100	1,060	1,025	100
Tyrawley	Ballina	193	309	494	307	183	432	82	260	229	142
	Killalla	250	276	300	270	340	330	280	310	270	315
TOTAL		969	1,665	1,997	2,148	1,890	2,268	1,914	1,968	1,971	1,061

REMARKS.—This Return has been drawn up with the greatest possible care, yet it cannot be relied on as altogether correct; it is however, I believe, as correct as any of the kind, after such a lapse of time as that for which it is required, could be furnished. The Chief Constable of Gallen states he could not procure any information so as to enable him to give a Return.

Castlebar, 5 April 1836. *J. S. Ireland*, C. Magistrate.

COUNTY OF ROSCOMMON.

RETURN of the Total QUANTITY of GRAIN sold in each of the several Markets.

YEAR	Wheat	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.	Reape.
1826	35,842	17,198	92,385	- - -	231
1827	26,342	18,779	95,955	- - -	231
1828	36,437	19,044	92,383	18	231
1829	25,661	16,629	90,941	19	231
1830	36,334	18,902	90,871	- - -	231
1831	35,922	26,185	94,950	- - -	231
1832	67,906	16,814	100,224	11	231
1833	25,014	17,109	88,594	- - -	231
1834	36,819	18,885	104,906	500	231
1835	37,802	77,929	102,787	500	231

The above is calculated by barrels as follows: 20 stones of 14 lbs. to the stone of wheat; 16 stones of 14 lbs. to the stone of Barley; 14 stones of 14 lbs. to the stone of Oats; 16 stones of 14 lbs. to the stone of Rye; 20 stones of 14 lbs. to the stone of Reape.

W. Galbraith, Sub-Inspector, Roscommon Constabulary.

COUNTY OF SLIGO.

RETURN, showing the QUANTITY of GRAIN sold in the above County, from the Year 1826 to 1835 inclusive.

MARKET TOWNS.	1826.			1827.			1828.			1829.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
	Barrels.	*Barrels.*	*Barrels.*	*Barrels.*	*Barrels.*	*Barrels.*	*Barrels.*	*Barrels.*	*Barrels.*	*Barrels.*	*Barrels.*	*Barrels.*
Sligo	3,625	12,071	302,323	4,035	5,830	355,003	4,277	8,751	389,063	4,576	8,402	290,164
Ballymote	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Tubbercurry	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Ardnaree	–	–	77,333	–	–	78,666	–	–	77,333	–	–	70,666
Collooney	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Ballisodare	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
TOTAL	3,625	12,071	379,654	4,035	5,830	433,669	4,277	8,751	466,396	4,576	8,402	360,830

	1830.			1831.			1832.			1833.		
Sligo	5,084	8,784	200,395	12,949	10,594	303,696	14,976	8,667	299,584	15,701	10,359	342,660
Ballymote	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Tubbercurry		–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Ardnaree	–	–	78,666	–	–	76,000	–	–	97,333	–	–	92,000
Collooney	–	–	–	–	–	18,666	–	–	18,666	–	–	18,666
Ballisodare	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2,344	–	–	6,253
TOTAL	5,084	8,784	279,061	12,949	10,594	398,362	14,976	8,667	417,927	15,701	10,359	459,579

	1834.			1835.		
Sligo	15,896	8,912	299,347	10,957	8,810	268,483
Ballymote	–	–	4,000	–	–	3,600
Tubbercurry	–	–	12,000	–	–	11,200
Ardnaree	–	–	77,333	–	–	66,666
Collooney	–	–	26,666	–	–	26,666
Ballisodare	–	–	6,640	–	–	11,160
TOTAL	15,896	8,912	425,986	10,957	8,810	387,775

REMARKS:

– No established Market at these places, and no grain purchased until the year 1834.

These are not regular Market Towns.

PROVINCE OF CONNAUGHT.

RETURN of the AVERAGE PRICES of WHEAT, BARLEY and OATS per Imperial Quarter, in the above Province, during the Months from August to December inclusive, in the Years 1833, 1834 and 1835, in the principal Market Towns.

COUNTIES.	MARKET TOWNS.	WHEAT.			BARLEY.			OATS.		
		1833.	1834.	1835.	1833.	1834.	1835.	1833.	1834.	1835.
		£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Clare	Kilrush	2 3 1	1 15 –	1 10 10	1 5 6	1 2 –	1 – –	– 15 2	– 16 3	– 14 2
	Ennis	2 3 4	1 14 6	1 11 7	1 – 4	1 1 –	– 19 –	– 16 8	– 17 4	– 15 5
Galway	Ballinasloe	1 15 4	1 16 10	1 15 7	– 17 –	– 18 6	– 18 9	– 11 8	– 14 –	– 14 1
	Galway	1 17 3	1 12 –	1 7 6	– 19 2	– 19 –	– 18 –	– 12 6	– 12 6	– 11 –
	Loughrea	1 14 8	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	– 12 1	– 14 8	– 14 8
	Portumna	1 14 3	1 9 2	1 4 9	– 18 6	– 15 1	– 15 11	– 11 1	– 11 11	– 10 10
	Tuam	1 14 2	1 9 3	1 7 2	– 18 4	– 18 6	– 17 7	– 11 10	– 13 1	– 13 6
Leitrim	Carrick-on-Shannon	- - -	- - -	- - -	– 17 –	– 19 –	– 18 5	– 17 6	1 1 –	– 18 5
	Mohill	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	– 14 6	– 15 6	– 16 –
	Drumsna	1 13 –	1 14 6	1 12 –	- - -	- - -	- - -	– 15 –	– 15 3	– 16 6
	Jamestown	1 16 –	1 16 6	1 11 –	1 5 –	1 5 6	1 7 –	– 16 –	– 16 6	– 17 –
	Ballinamore	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	– 18 8	– 18 8	– 18 8
Mayo	Castlebar	1 18 6	1 14 6	1 17 9	– 17 6	– 18 –	– 17 6	– 12 6	– 13 2	– 11 9
	Clare morris	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	– 18 4	– 19 8	1 – –
	Ballinrobe	1 10 8	1 10 8	1 10 8	– 16 2	– 16 2	– 16 2	– 13 4	– 13 4	– 13 4
	Westport	1 15 6	1 5 10	1 5 10	– 14 7	– 18 4	– 17 4	– 13 2	– 15 3	– 13 2
	Ballina	2 – –	1 15 –	1 10 –	– 19 –	– 19 –	– 19 –	– 13 3	– 14 6	– 13 –
	Newport	- - -	- - -	- - -	– 19 8	– 16 10	– 16 10	– 15 8	– 16 10	– 16 10
Roscommon	Roscommon	1 15 –	1 15 2	1 15 4	1 3 –	1 1 6	1 2 6	– 13 4	– 14 6	– 16 6
Sligo	Sligo	1 14 –	1 13 1	1 13 1	– 19 –	1 1 4	1 2 6	– 15 –	– 16 7	– 15 6
	Ballymote	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	– 14 6	– 15 –	– 15 6
	Tobbercurry	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	– 14 6	– 15 –	– 15 6
	Ardnaree	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	– 14 6	– 15 –	– 15 6
	Collooney	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	– 14 6	– 15 –	– 15 6
	Ballisodare	- - -	- - -	- - -	- -	- - -	- - -	– 14 6	– 15 –	– 15 6

Appendix, No. 19.

AN ACCOUNT of the EXPORTS of BRITISH and IRISH PRODUCE and MANUFACTURES to the several Countries from which CORN is imported (both Official and Declared Value), in the Years ending 5th January 1829, 1830, 1831, 1832, 1833, 1834, 1835 and 1836.

BRITISH and IRISH PRODUCE and MANUFACTURES Exported from the UNITED KINGDOM to COUNTRIES from which CORN is usually Imported.

NAMES of the COUNTRIES.	OFFICIAL VALUE. Years ending 5th January							
	1829.	1830.	1831.	1832.	1833.	1834.	1835.	1836.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Russia	1,849,424	2,157,482	2,261,296	1,746,973	2,357,634	2,238,793	1,867,228	2,376,779
Sweden	52,643	54,727	60,667	94,587	103,177	89,596	92,056	137,220
Denmark	185,954	158,356	221,786	173,280	183,809	203,129	194,438	198,163
Prussia	226,027	252,576	219,185	264,618	320,723	173,994	176,263	226,630
Germany	7,443,714	8,386,360	8,641,816	7,667,147	10,654,107	8,977,955	8,935,207	8,678,669
Holland	2,875,634	2,854,648	2,896,278	3,179,299	3,541,004	3,594,291	3,864,817	4,062,437
Belgium					969,984	1,217,940	1,137,165	1,107,036
United States of America	6,694,695	5,854,397	7,843,907	12,007,208	7,017,048	10,569,567	9,458,717	14,198,900
Canada	1,059,225	980,476	1,388,201	1,749,847	1,863,118	1,789,876	1,171,540	1,842,196
TOTAL	20,387,316	20,699,022	23,533,136	26,882,959	27,010,604	28,855,141	26,897,431	32,828,030

NAMES of the COUNTRIES.	DECLARED VALUE. Years ending 5th January							
	1829.	1830.	1831.	1832.	1833.	1834.	1835.	1836.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Russia	1,318,936	1,435,805	1,489,538	1,191,565	1,587,250	1,531,002	1,382,300	1,752,775
Sweden	42,699	38,252	40,488	57,127	64,932	59,549	63,094	105,156
Denmark	111,880	95,247	118,813	92,294	93,396	99,951	94,595	107,979
Prussia	179,145	189,011	177,923	192,816	258,556	144,179	136,423	188,273
Germany	4,394,104	4,473,556	4,463,605	3,642,952	5,068,997	4,355,548	4,547,166	4,602,966
Holland	2,142,736	2,050,014	2,022,458	2,082,536	2,098,499	2,181,893	2,470,267	2,648,402
Belgium					690,898	886,429	750,059	818,487
United States of America	5,810,315	4,823,415	6,132,346	9,053,583	5,468,272	7,579,699	6,844,989	10,568,455
Canada	787,289	709,141	997,502	1,136,819	1,173,587	1,171,565	799,912	1,184,985
TOTAL	14,787,104	13,814,441	15,442,673	17,449,692	16,504,387	18,009,815	17,088,805	21,977,478

Inspector General's Office, Custom House, London, 22 April 1836.

WILLIAM IRVING, Inspector General of Imports and Exports.

547

Appendix, No. 20.

Appendix, No. 20.

AVERAGE PRICES of WOOL in *Norfolk* and *Suffolk* from 1815 to 1835.

	Clothing per Pound.	Combing per Pound.		Clothing per Pound.	Combing per Pound.
	s. *d.*	*s.* *d.*		*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*
The growth of 1815	2 –	1 6	The growth of 1826	– 8½	1 1¼
„ 1816	1 6	1 6	„ 1827	– 8	1 2
„ 1817	1 7½	1 6½	„ 1828	– 7½	1 4
„ 1818	2 6	2 3½	„ 1829	– 6½	1 2½
„ 1819	1 6	1 8½	„ 1830	– 10	1 5
„ 1820	1 2½	1 11½	„ 1831	1 1	1 3½
„ 1821	1 –½	1 7½	„ 1832	– 11	1 11
„ 1822	1 –	1 3½	„ 1833	1 3	1 9½
„ 1823	1 –	1 6½	„ 1834	1 4	1 11
„ 1824	1 1	1 10½	„ 1835	1 3	1 10
„ 1825	1 1	1 8	Present Value - -	1 6	2 –

Thetford, May 6, 1836. *Jas Fison* & Sons.

PARTICULARS of Information desired by the Committee on AGRICULTURAL DISTRESS.

ESTIMATE of the Amount which would be produced by a Land-tax of 4*s.* in the Pound on all Properties contemplated by the Act:—

A land-tax of 4*s.* in the pound on lands and tenements and other properties contemplated by the Act (exclusive of offices and personal estate), taking the value at three-fourths of the amount assessed to the Property Tax in 1815, would amount to about 9,044,578*l.*

No estimate can be made of the amount which would be produced by a Tax of 4*s.* in the pound on offices, pensions and personal estate, inasmuch as the amount of those descriptions of property cannot be ascertained.

AMOUNT of Land-tax charged on Real Estate, and Offices and Personal Estates respectively in the County of Essex:—

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Amount charged by the assessment of 1798 on lands and tenements - - - - - - - - -	88,638	10	2¾
Ditto on offices - - - - - - - - -	682	–	2½
Ditto on personal estate - - - - - - -	1	–	–
£.	89,321	10	5¼

ASSESSMENT on Waters in the City of London:—

It appears, on reference to the land-tax assessment for the year 1798, that the following sums were charged on Water Companies in the city of London:

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
New River Company - - - - - - - - -	3,600	–	–
Hampstead Waterworks - - - - - - - -	16	–	–
Thames Waterworks - - - - - - - - -	300	–	–

ASSESSMENT on Personal Estate of the Bank of England:—

The sum of 38*l.* was charged by the assessment of the year 1798 on personal estate of the Bank of England.

ESTIMATE of saving to any Person paying 4*s.* in the Pound Land-tax, who redeemed at 22 Years' Purchase.

To redeem 4*s.* land-tax according to the Acts now in force, at the current price of the Three per Cents., viz. 91—92, it would require a sum of 6*l.* 14*s.* 4½*d.* in money, being the amount necessary to purchase 7*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* stock, yielding a dividend of 4*s.* 4¾*d.*, or one-tenth more than the land-tax.

A person redeeming 4*s.* land-tax at 22 years' purchase, would pay the sum of 4*l.* 8*s.*, which sum, at the present price of the Three per Cents., would purchase 4*l.* 16*s.* –½*d.* stock, the dividend on which would be 2*s.* 11*d.*

The saving, therefore, to a person redeeming the sum of 4*s.* land-tax at 22 years' purchase, as compared with the price now payable, would be 2*l.* 6*s.* 4½*d.* in money; and as the capital invested would produce a dividend of 2*s.* 11*d.* only, a redemption at this rate would be equivalent to a reduction of 1*s.* 1*d.* upon every 4*s.* land-tax, or 1*s.* 5¾*d.* as compared with the dividend now required.

Appendix, No. 20.

STATEMENT, showing the AVERAGE RATE in the POUND at which the LAND TAX is charged in the several Counties in *England* and *Wales*, and in *Scotland*, taking the value at Three-fourths of the Amount assessed to the Property Duty in 1815.

COUNTIES.	ESTIMATED VALUE.	QUOTAS of LAND TAX.	RATE PER POUND.
	£.	£.	s. d.
Bedford	273,208	28,430	About 2 1
Berks	539,918	40,194	„ 1 5¾
Bucks	497,154	46,815	„ 1 10½
Cambridge	529,029	32,470	„ 1 2½
Chester	836,196	27,475	„ – 7¾
Cornwall	691,695	30,473	„ – 10½
Cumberland	553,079	3,727	„ – 1½
Derby	662,528	23,402	„ – 8½
Devon	1,443,684	77,758	„ 1 –¾
Dorset	544,698	32,021	„ 1 2
Durham	664,185	9,626	„ – 3½
Essex	1,188,081	88,639	„ 1 5¾
Gloucester	986,795	46,658	„ – 11¼
Hereford	471,867	20,102	„ – 10¼
Hertford	437,743	41,782	„ 1 10¾
Huntingdon	244,473	15,277	„ 1 2¾
Kent	1,265,583	80,487	„ 1 3¼
Lancaster	2,354,283	19,409	„ – 2
Leicester	713,931	34,237	„ – 11½
Lincoln	1,572,459	70,530	„ – 10¾
Monmouth	224,236	9,609	„ – 9¾
Norfolk	1,137,489	81,818	„ 1 5¼
Northampton	710,684	47,157	„ 1 3¾
Northumberland	968,560	14,274	„ – 3½
Nottingham	563,720	26,728	„ – 11¼
Oxford	593,151	38,011	„ 1 3¼
Rutland	103,662	5,473	„ 1 –½
Salop	812,777	28,681	„ – 8½
Somerset	1,731,543	69,897	„ – 9¾
Southampton	930,411	52,599	„ 1 1½
Stafford	900,244	26,139	„ – 6¾
Suffolk	863,479	72,498	„ 1 8
Surrey	1,192,277	65,104	„ 1 1
Sussex	689,513	58,446	„ 1 8
Warwick	952,318	39,208	„ – 9¾
Westmorland	224,687	3,030	„ – 3¼
Wilts	911,715	50,985	„ 1 1¼
Worcester	615,016	32,523	„ 1 –¾
York, East Riding	788,361	20,300	„ – 6½
„ North Riding	879,567	25,702	„ – 7
„ West Riding	1,902,391	42,401	„ – 5¼
Middlesex	2,538,000	95,584	„ – 9
„ London	801,582	87,244	„ 2 2
„ Westminster	984,450	53,418	„ 1 1
Wales:			
Anglesea	71,075	1,536	„ – 5¼
Brecon	121,492	2,953	„ – 5¾
Cardigan	110,112	1,278	„ – 2¾
Caermarthen	211,569	4,147	„ – 4¾
Caernarvon	98,409	2,172	„ – 5¼
Denbigh	234,432	6,722	„ – 7
Flint	131,337	2,247	„ – 4
Glamorgan	279,453	7,670	„ – 6½
Merioneth	84,387	2,423	„ – 7
Montgomery	159,063	5,804	„ – 8¾
Pembroke	165,181	2,903	„ – 4¼
Radnor	76,467	2,652	„ – 8¼
Scotland	4,989,491	47,954	„ – 2¼
TOTALS	45,222,890	1,906,802	Average about – 10

ESTIMATED EXPENSE of cultivating an ACRE of Average HEAVY LAND through the course of FIVE CROPS, or rather of Five Years.

First Year CLOVER.	£.	s.	d.
Rent, say	1	5	–
Parochial Payments	–	5	–
Seed, Clover	–	7	6
Rye Grass	–	1	3
Sowing ditto	–	1	–
£.	1	19	9

Second Year OATS.	£.	s.	d.
Rent	1	5	–
Payments	–	5	–
Ploughing, harrowing and sowing	–	18	–
Seed, 6½ Bushels	–	19	6
Weeding	–	1	6
Mowing and harvesting	–	13	–
Thrashing and marketing	–	11	–
£.	4	13	–

Third Year WHEAT.	£.	s.	d.
Rent	1	5	–
Payments	–	5	–
Ploughing twice	–	19	–
Harrowing and sowing	–	6	–
Lime and spreading*	2	5	–
Seed, 2½ Bushels	–	15	7½
Weeding	–	1	6
Reaping and harvesting	1	–	–
Thrashing and marketing	–	16	6
£.	7	13	7½

Fourth Year FALLOW. Fifth Year WHEAT.	£.	s.	d.
Rent, 2 years	2	10	–
Payments ditto	–	10	–
4 Ploughings	2	–	–
2 Harrowings	–	7	–
Preparing and spreading Manure	–	12	–
Seed, 2½ Bushels	–	15	7½
Sowing	–	2	–
Weeding	–	1	–
Reaping and harvesting	1	–	–
Thrashing and marketing	–	18	–
£.	8	15	7

* The expense of the dressing of Lime varies of course according to the distance of the land from the Kilns; the annexed calculation is therefore made upon a medium distance.

Estimated VALUE of the COURSE of CROPS.

	£.	s.	d.
First Year CLOVER. Supposing this Crop to be either fed on the ground or mown, I suppose the value to be	4	–	–
Second Year OATS. 5 Quarters per Acre at 21 s.	5	5	–
Third Year WHEAT. 3½ Quarters per Acre at 50 s.	8	15	–
Fourth Year FALLOW.—Fifth Year WHEAT. 4 Quarters per Acre at 50 s.	10	–	–
Value of Crops	£. 29	–	–

Cost.	£.	s.	d.
1 Year	1	19	9
2 ditto	4	13	–
3 ditto	7	13	7½
4 ditto 5 ditto	8	15	7½
Cost of Production	£. 23	2	–

Balance £. 5. 18 s.

N. B.—I have not made any allowance for Interest of capital employed, which I consider upon such a Farm ought to be 5 s. per Acre per annum.

John Ellis.

Appendix, No. 21.

Appendix, No. 21.

A RETURN of the TOTAL QUANTITY of CORN and MALT sent Coastwise from *Scotland* to *England*, and distinguishing the QUANTITY

YEARS ending 5 January.	PORTS from which shipped.	CORN AND GRAIN. Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.
		Quarters.	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*
1827	Leith	280	300	390	-
	Dunbar	1,114	125	753	-
	Grangemouth	-	-	-	-
	Anstruther	161	-	-	36
	Dundee	3,640	68	2,336	368
	Perth	500	-	-	-
	Montrose	573	-	357	-
	Abroath	1,044	440	29	12
	Aberdeen	-	80	24,791	-
	Banff	-	-	29,262	-
	Inverness	5,066	32	174	2
	Greenock	530	-	665	-
	Glasgow	-	654	-	-
	Ayr	-	-	-	-
	Girvan	505	-	-	-
	Campbeltown	-	-	-	-
	Dumfries	2,563	2,747	1,962	-
	Wigtown	3,104	1,105	11,251	31
	Kirkcudbright	1,331	1,447	9,323	-
	Stranraer	1,958	679	1,675	57
	TOTAL	22,369	7,677	82,968	506
1828	Leith	-	123	3,496	289
	Dunbar	265	280	1,030	113
	Grangemouth	20	252	1,796	-
	Kirkaldy	-	-	20	-
	Anstruther	85	-	-	28
	Dundee	1,809	116	319	1,162
	Perth	700	-	640	75
	Montrose	-	-	306	-
	Arbroath	122	5	1,020	-
	Aberdeen	-	8	3,815	-
	Banff	30	-	5,794	-
	Inverness	4,108	267	216	-
	Greenock	-	56	109	-
	Glasgow	-	-	3,300	-
	Ayr	-	-	-	-
	Campbeltown	-	-	-	-
	Dumfries	1,455	3,694	1,244	-
	Wigtown	2,498	1,273	3,790	46
	Kirkcudbright	1,433	621	2,609	13
	Stranraer	1,661	411	702	31
	TOTAL	14,186	7,106	30,206	1,757
1829	Leith	17,846	-	11,736	-
	Dunbar	3,453	3	1,738	17
	Borrowstoness	356	-	508	-
	Inverkeithing	-	-	478	-
	Grangemouth	1,715	425	3,399	-
	Kirkaldy	208	-	338	-
	Anstruther	323	-	323	24
	Dundee	6,416	1,135	9,923	187
	Perth	2,653	704	6,910	300
	Montrose	1,658	3,356	2,568	92
	Arbroath	857	530	245	-
	Aberdeen	270	-	41,920	-
	Banff	672	-	38,598	-
	Inverness	6,709	815	5,792	45
	Greenock	1,734	92	-	-
	Glasgow	1,960	-	213	-
	Ayr	128	-	4	-
	Dumfries	2,831	7,145	1,177	-
	Wigtown	3,903	2,024	16,472	169
	Kirkcudbright	1,956	409	9,130	-
	Stranraer	3,011	552	2,875	247
	TOTAL	58,659	17,190	154,347	1,081

551

Appendix, No. 21.

in each of the Ten Years ending the 5th January 1836; distinguishing the different kinds of CORN, from each PORT and SUB-PORT.

CORN AND GRAIN.			MEAL AND FLOUR.				
Peas and Beans.	Malt.	TOTAL of Corn & Grain.	Wheat Flour.	Barley Meal.	Oatmeal.	Indian Meal.	TOTAL of Meal & Flour.
Quarters.	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*
- -	72	1,042	- -	- -	380	- -	380
- -	41	2,033	8	- -	4	- -	12
- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	15	- -	15
- -	- -	197	—		—	—	—
38	- -	6,450	725	- -	743	- -	1,468
- -	- -	500	—		—	—	—
161	- -	1,091	73	- -	10	- -	83
- -	206	1,731	- -	- -	9	- -	9
41	- -	24,912	- -	- -	4,566	- -	4,566
65	- -	29,327	- -	- -	160	- -	160
127	- -	5,401	50	- -	2	- -	52
- -	- -	1,195	- -	- -	4,961	- -	4,961
- -	- -	654	2	- -	- -	- -	2
- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	18	- -	18
- -	- -	505	—	—	—	—	—
27	- -	27	—	—	—	—	—
15	407	7,694	300	- -	854	- -	1,154
342	- -	15,833	- -	- -	11	- -	11
3	- -	12,104	- -	- -	129	- -	129
56	- -	4,425	- -	- -	138	- -	138
875	726	115,121	1,158	- -	12,000	- -	13,158
243	- -	4,151	130	- -	400	- -	530
1,661	- -	3,349	220	- -	78	- -	298
370	- -	2,438	134	- -	66	- -	200
- -	- -	20	—	—	—	—	—
- -	- -	113	—	—	—	—	—
345	2	3,753	50	- -	1,418	- -	1,468
850	- -	2,265	—	—	—	—	—
107	- -	413	20	- -	- -	- -	20
130	- -	1,277	- -	- -	20	- -	20
15	- -	3,838	- -	- -	5,353	- -	5,353
78	- -	5,902	—	—	—	—	—
54	- -	4,645	15	- -	- -	- -	15
350	- -	515	40	- -	2,648	- -	2,688
581	7	3,838	—	—	—	—	—
- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	9	- -	9
8	- -	8	—	—	—	—	—
16	75	6,484	56	- -	915	- -	971
285	- -	7,892	22	- -	75	- -	97
3	- -	4,679	- -	- -	54	- -	54
33	- -	2,838	- -	- -	55	- -	55
5,129	84	58,468	687	- -	11,091	- -	11,778
1,012	- -	30,594	2,487	- -	720	- -	3,207
2,325	- -	7,536	2,354	- -	10	- -	2,364
- -	- -	864	—	—	—	—	—
- -	- -	478	—	—	—	—	—
100	120	5,759	- -	- -	423	- -	423
- -	- -	546	—	—	—	—	—
- -	- -	670	—	—	—	—	—
3,373	- -	21,034	973	135	760	- -	1,868
1,474	- -	12,041	—	—	—	—	—
2,390	- -	10,064	1,878	- -	13	- -	1,891
314	- -	1,946	248	- -	5	- -	253
100	- -	42,290	263	- -	4,621	- -	4,884
82	- -	39,352	—	—	—	—	—
130	- -	13,491	5	- -	240	- -	245
- -	8	1,834	15	- -	1,048	- -	1,063
851	- -	3,024	- -	- -	232	- -	232
25	- -	157	310	- -	22	- -	332
221	- -	11,374	856	- -	1,009	- -	1,865
812	- -	23,380	285	- -	158	- -	443
1	- -	11,496	- -	- -	637	- -	637
43	- -	6,728	116	- -	778	- -	894
13,253	128	244,658	9,790	135	10,676	- -	20,601

(continued.)

Appendix, No. 21.

RETURN of the Total Quantity of Corn and Malt sent Coastwise from - - -

YEARS ending 5 January.	PORTS from which shipped.	CORN AND GRAIN. - - -			
		Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.
		Quarters.	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*
1830 - -	Leith - - -	866	- - -	8,894	- - -
	Dunbar - - -	861	75	4,390	8
	Borrowstoness - -	- - -	- - -	430	- - -
	Inverkeithing - -	- - -	- - -	245	- - -
	Grangemouth - -	812	- - -	86	- - -
	Alloa - - -	- - -	- - -	30	- - -
	Kirkaldy - - -	144	- - -	2	- - -
	Anstruther - -	450	- - -	290	7
	Dundee - - -	1,107	804	13,376	188
	Perth - - -	808	2,093	12,162	12
	Montrose - -	542	440	8,175	21
	Arbroath - -	818	620	818	35
	Aberdeen - -	- - -	72	48,167	- - -
	Banff - - -	200	- - -	59,340	- - -
	Inverness - -	10,021	629	7,400	166
	Wick - - -	- - -	- - -	450	- - -
	Greenock - -	- - -	84	147	- - -
	Glasgow - - -	1,029	- - -	- - -	- - -
	Ayr - - - -	434	- - -	2	- - -
	Girvan - - -	1,491	- - -	- - -	- - -
	Campbeltown - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -
	Dumfries - -	2,702	4,654	5,263	- - -
	Wigtown - -	2,953	1,526	13,133	9
	Kirkcudbright - -	1,351	636	11,060	- - -
	Stranraer - -	1,967	400	885	19
	TOTAL - -	28,556	12,033	194,745	465
1831 - -	Leith - - -	4,088	- - -	5,990	- - -
	Dunbar - - -	131	121	1,762	18
	Grangemouth- -	16	- - -	- - -	- - -
	Alloa - - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -
	Kirkaldy - -	60	- - -	435	- - -
	Anstruther - -	94	- - -	9	- - -
	Dundee - - -	3,894	2,585	4,717	2,182
	Perth - - -	2,750	1,497	9,088	18
	Montrose - -	639	2,505	6,387	158
	Arbroath - -	729	1,086	462	- - -
	Aberdeen - -	510	433	60,099	- - -
	Banff - - -	642	520	53,030	25
	Inverness - -	15,210	1,886	8,965	50
	Wick - - -	100	- - -	675	- - -
	Greenock - -	845	28	230	- - -
	Glasgow - - -	1,529	- - -	2,724	- - -
	Ayr - - -	1,367	- - -	- - -	- - -
	Girvan - - -	2,469	- - -	- - -	- - -
	Dumfries - -	2,841	3,699	1,635	- - -
	Wigtown - -	2,288	2,071	11,108	282
	Kirkcudbright - -	2,644	1,117	5,738	7
	Stranraer - -	3,240	478	1,162	66
	TOTAL - -	46,086	18,026	174,216	2,806
1832 - -	Leith - - -	1,653	241	100	296
	Dunbar - - -	408	915	1,148	- - -
	Grangemouth - -	341	- - -	1,042	- - -
	Kirkaldy - - -	110	280	200	- - -
	Anstruther - -	- - -	88	- - -	- - -
	Dundee - - -	5,633	4,562	8,056	1,803
	Perth - - -	596	9,631	1,001	- - -
	Montrose - -	1,087	9,656	5,460	52
	Arbroath - -	1,462	7,589	402	12
	Aberdeen - -	10	210	67,537	- - -
	Banff - - -	1,043	1,245	51,630	- - -
	Inverness - -	15,956	1,190	5,071	2
	Wick - - -	- - -	- - -	1,010	- - -
	Greenock - -	494	- - -	- - -	- - -
	Glasgow - - -	4,988	- - -	1,138	- - -
	Ayr - - -	1,631	- - -	- - -	- - -
	Girvan - - -	2,987	- - -	- - -	- - -
	Campbeltown - -	17	- - -	148	- - -
	Dumfries - -	1,992	7,091	1,390	- - -
	Wigtown - -	2,500	3,118	9,684	22
	Kirkcudbright - -	2,226	2,640	4,927	- - -
	Stranraer - -	3,373	347	757	1
	TOTAL - -	48,507	48,803	160,701	2,188

553

- - *Scotland* to *England* in each of the Ten Years ending 5 January 1836—*continued.*

Appendix, No. 21.

- CORN AND GRAIN.			MEAL AND FLOUR.				
Peas and Beans.	Malt.	TOTAL of Corn & Grain.	Wheat Flour.	Barley Meal.	Oatmeal.	Indian Meal.	TOTAL of Meal & Flour.
Quarters.	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*
20	- -	9,780	120	- -	2,345	- -	2,465
1,014	- -	6,348	334	- -	228	- -	562
- -	- -	430	—	—	—	—	—
- -	- -	245	—	—	—	—	—
- -	228	1,126	- -	- -	64	- -	64
2	- -	32	—	—	—	—	—
- -	- -	146	- -	- -	13	- -	13
- -	- -	747	—	—	—	—	—
656	- -	16,131	634	- -	1,098	- -	1,732
300	- -	15,375	—	—	—	—	—
417	- -	9,595	810	- -	330	- -	1,140
7	- -	2,298	- -	- -	5	- -	5
119	- -	48,358	- -	- -	6,216	- -	6,216
244	- -	59,784	—	—	—	—	—
158	- -	18,374	- -	- -	7	- -	7
- -	- -	450	—	—	—	—	—
- -	- -	231	- -	- -	1,000	- -	1,000
5	28	1,062	—	—	—	—	—
10	- -	446	- -	- -	15	- -	15
- -	- -	1,491	—	—	—	—	—
- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	44	44
70	- -	12,689	496	- -	2,597	- -	3,093
343	- -	17,964	41	- -	70	- -	111
13	- -	13,060	- -	- -	2,532	- -	2,532
70	- -	3,341	- -	- -	21	- -	21
3,448	256	239,503	2,435	- -	16,541	44	19,020
- -	- -	10,078	80	- -	375	- -	455
47	- -	2,079	18	- -	8	- -	26
- -	- -	16	- -	- -	22	- -	22
- -	40	40	—	—	—	—	—
- -	- -	495	—	—	—	—	—
- -	- -	103	—	—	—	—	—
95	- -	13,473	462	- -	671	- -	1,133
76	- -	13,429	—	—	—	—	—
- -	- -	9,689	- -	- -	123	- -	123
6	- -	2,283	- -	- -	20	- -	20
154	- -	61,196	218	- -	9,489	- -	9,707
132	- -	54,349	- -	- -	630	- -	630
79	- -	26,190	—	—	—	—	—
- -	- -	775	—	—	—	—	—
- -	- -	1,103	- -	- -	- -	96	96
26	122	4,401	—	—	—	—	—
- -	- -	1,367	- -	- -	8	- -	
- -	- -	2,469	—	—	—	—	—
12	24	8,211	832	- -	69	- -	901
523	- -	16,272	185	- -	411	- -	596
55	- -	9,561	- -	- -	732	- -	732
46	- -	4,992	- -	- -	21	- -	21
1,251	186	242,571	1,795	- -	12,579	96	14,470
971	345	3,606	807	- -	270	- -	1,077
249	505	3,225	1,276	- -	13	- -	1,289
1,313	30	2,726	- -	- -	29	- -	29
- -	- -	590	- -	- -	10	- -	10
- -	- -	88	—	—	—	—	—
257	- -	20,311	245	- -	1,411	- -	1,656
- -	- -	11,228	—	—	—	—	—
665	- -	16,920	- -	- -	60	- -	60
148	- -	9,613	—	—	—	—	—
51	- -	67,808	- -	- -	12,927	- -	12,927
102	- -	54,020	- -	- -	810	- -	810
109	- -	22,328	—	—	—	—	—
- -	- -	1,010	—	—	—	—	—
- -	- -	494	- -	- -	205	- -	205
- -	384	6,510	110	- -	36	- -	146
16	- -	1,647	- -	- -	9	- -	9
- -	- -	2,987	—	—	—	—	—
- -	- -	165	—	—	—	—	—
15	69	10,557	320	- -	118	- -	438
209	- -	15,533	200	- -	369	- -	569
- -	- -	9,793	- -	- -	181	- -	181
18	- -	4,496	- -	- -	60	- -	60
4,123	1,333	265,655	2,958	- -	16,508	- -	19,466

(*continued.*)

Appendix, No. 21.

RETURN of the Total Quantity of Corn and Malt sent Coastwise from - - - -

YEARS ending 5 January.	PORTS from which shipped.	CORN AND GRAIN.			
		Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.
		Quarters.	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*
1833	Leith	1,488	867	92	-
	Dunbar	319	70	671	-
	Grangemouth	22	-	2	-
	Kirkaldy	588	380	681	3
	Anstruther	2,584	-	28	-
	Dundee	5,890	9,374	473	271
	Perth	745	6,930	-	-
	Montrose	855	10,590	4,399	14
	Arbroath	390	5,998	30	-
	Aberdeen	576	1,159	52,041	-
	Banff	837	764	55,816	-
	Inverness	19,341	546	5,293	145
	Greenock	443	-	-	-
	Glasgow	423	-	-	-
	Ayr	1,267	-	-	-
	Girvan	3,507	-	-	-
	Dumfries	3,464	8,743	1,898	-
	Wigtown	2,788	3,058	14,202	-
	Kirkcudbright	2,305	2,967	9,836	-
	Stranraer	3,100	874	1,198	-
	TOTAL	50,932	52,320	146,660	433
1834	Leith	-	-	226	32
	Dunbar	2,123	1,104	4,129	-
	Inverkeithing	-	149	-	-
	Grangemouth	-	-	17	-
	Kirkaldy	15	120	1,602	35
	Anstruther	25	141	72	-
	Dundee	203	3,365	1,064	441
	Perth	10	5,291	7,907	-
	Montrose	-	7,224	10,977	96
	Arbroath	-	3,874	556	-
	Aberdeen	271	320	79,454	-
	Banff	745	589	74,497	-
	Inverness	11,814	645	7,157	53
	Kirkwall	-	508	-	-
	Greenock	-	6	-	-
	Glasgow	-	-	-	-
	Ayr	125	-	-	-
	Girvan	612	-	-	-
	Campbeltown	-	-	-	-
	Dumfries	1,424	7,103	3,161	-
	Wigtown	3,723	3,531	21,401	42
	Kirkcudbright	2,114	3,027	15,183	-
	Stranraer	3,969	467	2,393	-
	TOTAL	27,173	37,464	229,796	699
1835	Leith	-	1,739	4,322	-
	Dunbar	708	1,282	6,342	30
	Borrowstowness	-	-	300	-
	Grangemouth	-	-	-	-
	Kirkaldy	-	100	4,869	64
	Anstruther	64	1,090	2,001	11
	Dundee	392	7,020	10,758	372
	Perth	40	5,378	19,103	-
	Montrose	761	29,916	24,737	142
	Arbroath	-	10,337	5,841	7
	Aberdeen	50	3,400	138,545	-
	Banff	1,827	2,040	106,913	6
	Inverness	11,748	1,687	13,499	128
	Wick	60	510	2,046	-
	Kirkwall	-	-	180	-
	Greenock	592	40	-	-
	Glasgow	223	277	2,235	-
	Ayr	44	-	16	-
	Girvan	1,031	-	-	-
	Dumfries	1,103	9,225	4,624	9
	Wigtown	3,036	3,026	16,533	3
	Kirkcudbright	2,007	4,332	11,683	-
	Stranraer	3,371	793	1,527	-
	TOTAL	27,057	82,192	376,074	772

- - *Scotland* to *England* in each of the Ten Years ending 5 January 1836—*continued.*

- - CORN AND GRAIN.			MEAL AND FLOUR.				
Peas and Beans.	Malt.	TOTAL of Corn & Grain.	Wheat Flour.	Barley Meal.	Oatmeal.	Indian Meal.	TOTAL of Meal & Flour.
Quarters.	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*
1,759	1,384	5,590	868	- -	33	- -	901
1,071	70	2,201	454	- -	233	- -	687
39	346	409	- -	- -	23	- -	23
- -	- -	1,652	- -	- -	43	- -	43
- -	- -	2,612	—	—	—	—	—
241	- -	16,249	313	- -	651	- -	964
5	- -	7,680	—	—	—	—	—
1,775	- -	17,633	—	—	—	—	—
194	- -	6,612	53	- -	- -	- -	53
18	- -	53,794	60	- -	14,407	- -	14,467
143	- -	57,560	- -	- -	920	- -	920
97	- -	25,422	10	- -	- -	- -	10
- -	- -	443	—	—	—	—	—
300	639	1,362	125	- -	70	- -	195
70	- -	1,337	- -	- -	7	- -	7
3	- -	3,510	—	—	—	—	—
15	- -	14,120	481	- -	300	- -	781
553	- -	20,601	- -	- -	343	- -	343
32	- -	15,140	- -	- -	347	- -	347
11	- -	5,183	- -	- -	562	- -	562
6,326	2,439	259,110	2,364	- -	17,939	- -	20,303
807	328	1,393	265	- -	- -	- -	265
1,121	111	8,588	1,093	- -	922	- -	2,015
- -	- -	149	—	—	—	—	—
321	- -	338	- -	- -	55	- -	55
- -	- -	1,772	- -	- -	223	- -	223
- -	- -	238	—	—	—	—	—
340	- -	5,413	205	85	478	- -	768
1,080	- -	14,288	—	—	—	—	—
2,333	- -	20,630	- -	- -	16	- -	16
256	- -	4,686	—	—	—	—	—
600	- -	80,645	275	- -	20,781	- -	21,056
199	- -	76,030	- -	- -	2,439	- -	2,439
549	- -	20,218	—	—	—	—	—
- -	- -	508	—	—	—	—	—
- -	- -	6	175	- -	50	- -	225
- -	160	160	- -	- -	283	- -	283
- -	- -	125	- -	- -	11	- -	11
- -	- -	612	—	—	—	—	—
3	- -	3	—	—	—	—	—
60	46	11,794	235	- -	538	- -	773
1,048	- -	29,745	18	- -	763	- -	781
97	- -	20,421	13	- -	4,326	- -	4,339
12	- -	6,841	- -	- -	898	- -	898
8,826	645	304,603	2,279	85	31,783	- -	34,147
779	61	6,901	- -	- -	48	- -	48
614	244	9,220	447	- -	93	- -	540
- -	- -	300	—	—	—	—	—
8	50	58	- -	- -	34	- -	34
- -	- -	5,033	90	- -	- -	- -	90
- -	- -	3,166	—	—	—	—	—
910	- -	19,452	246	- -	401	- -	647
660	- -	25,181	—	—	—	—	—
1,948	- -	57,504	50	- -	- -	- -	50
676	- -	16,861	—	—	—	—	—
336	- -	142,331	- -	- -	15,643	- -	15,643
256	- -	111,042	89	- -	960	- -	1,049
1,477	- -	28,539	—	—	—	—	—
- -	- -	2,616	—	—	—	—	—
- -	- -	180	—	—	—	—	—
- -	- -	632	303	- -	26	- -	329
- -	69	2,804	- -	- -	25	- -	25
- -	- -	60	- -	- -	18	- -	18
- -	- -	1,031	—	—	—	—	—
126	499	15,586	263	- -	2,071	- -	2,334
747	- -	23,345	- -	- -	56	- -	56
68	- -	18,090	- -	- -	1,172	- -	1,172
31	- -	5,722	- -	- -	100	- -	100
8,636	923	495,654	1,488	- -	20,647	- -	22,135

Appendix, No. 21.

RETURN of the Total Quantity of Corn and Malt sent Coastwise from - - - -

YEARS ending 5 January.	PORTS from which shipped.	CORN AND GRAIN. - - -			
		Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.
		Quarters.	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*
1836 - -	Leith - - -	- - -	1,390	1,485	- - -
	Dunbar - - -	775	948	2,773	- - -
	Grangemouth - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -
	Kirkaldy - -	90	340	2,210	- - -
	Anstruther - -	- - -	1,996	2,540	- - -
	Dundee - - -	269	10,812	8,231	212
	Perth - - -	- - -	1,046	11,677	94
	Montrose - -	- - -	20,407	12,202	- - -
	Arbroath - -	- - -	8,272	3,529	116
	Aberdeen - -	- - -	2,145	95,506	- - -
	Banff - - -	464	1,062	72,602	- - -
	Inverness - -	4,472	1,571	4,607	91
	Wick - - -	41	279	3,535	- - -
	Glasgow - - -	- - -	- - -	376	- - -
	Ayr - - -	60	- - -	5	- - -
	Girvan - - -	551	- - -	- - -	- - -
	Campbeltown - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -
	Dumfries - -	1,148	13,900	7,213	47
	Wigtown - -	3,652	3,376	13,236	100
	Kirkcudbright - -	1,974	4,808	15,853	- - -
	Stranraer - -	3,141	806	1,270	- - -
	TOTAL - -	16,637	73,158	258,850	660

ABSTRACT of the preceding ACCOUNT; showing the TOTAL QUANTITIES in each of the Ten Years

YEARS ending 5 January.	CORN AND GRAIN. - - - - -				
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.	Peas and Beans.
	Quarters.	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*
1827 - - -	22,369	7,677	82,968	506	875
1828 - - -	14,186	7,106	30,206	1,757	5,129
1829 - - -	58,659	17,190	154,347	1,081	13,253
1830 - - -	28,556	12,033	194,745	465	3,448
1831 - - -	46,086	18,026	174,216	2,806	1,251
1832 - - -	48,507	48,803	160,701	2,188	4,123
1833 - - -	50,932	52,320	146,660	433	6,326
1834 - - -	27,173	37,464	229,796	699	8,826
1835 - - -	27,057	82,192	376,074	772	8,636
1836 - - -	16,637	73,158	258,850	660	7,235

Inspector-General's Office,
Custom-House, London, 5 May 1836.

- - *Scotland* to *England* in each of the Ten Years ending 5 January 1836—*continued*.

- - CORN AND GRAIN.			MEAL AND FLOUR.				
Peas and Beans.	Malt.	TOTAL of Corn & Grain.	Wheat Flour.	Barley Meal.	Oatmeal.	Indian Meal.	TOTAL of Meal & Flour.
Quarters.	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*
1,082	567	4,524	125	- -	341	- -	466
616	427	5,539	97	- -	130	- -	227
- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	48	- -	48
- -	- -	2,640	- -	- -	93	- -	93
- -	- -	4,536	—	—	—	—	—
700	108	20,332	88	- -	410	- -	498
220	- -	13,037	—	—	—	—	—
1,245	- -	33,854	65	- -	- -	- -	65
952	- -	12,869	—	—	—	—	—
98	50	97,799	55	- -	7,150	- -	7,205
289	- -	74,417	- -	- -	982	- -	982
938	- -	11,679	—	—	—	—	—
67	- -	3,922	—	—	—	—	—
- -	382	758	63	- -	620	- -	683
- -	- -	65	- -	- -	18	- -	18
20	- -	571	—	—	—	—	—
12	- -	12	—	—	—	—	—
230	- -	22,538	158	- -	1,307	- -	465
617	- -	20,981	40	- -	60	- -	100
55	- -	22,690	- -	- -	310	- -	310
94	- -	5,311	- -	- -	800	- -	800
7,235	1,534	358,074	691	- -	12,269	- -	12,960

of CORN, GRAIN, MEAL and FLOUR Shipped Coastwise from *Scotland* to *England*, ending 5th January 1836.

- CORN AND GRAIN.		MEAL AND FLOUR.				
Malt.	TOTAL of Corn & Grain.	Wheat Flour.	Barley Meal.	Oatmeal.	Indian Meal.	TOTAL of Meal and Flour.
Quarters.	*Quarters.*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*
726	115,121	1,158	- - -	12,000	- -	13,158
84	58,468	687	- - -	11,091	- -	11,778
128	244,658	9,790	135	10,676	- -	20,601
256	239,503	2,435	- - -	16,541	44	19,020
186	242,571	1,795	- - -	12,579	96	14,470
1,333	265,655	2,958	- - -	16,508	- -	19,466
2,439	259,110	2,364	- - -	17,939	- -	20,303
645	304,603	2,279	85	31,783	- -	34,147
923	495,654	1,488	- - -	20,647	- -	22,135
1,534	358,074	691	- - -	12,269	- -	12,960

William Irving,
Inspector-General of Imports and Exports.

Appendix, No. 22.

RETURN, showing the Crops and Price of Wheat from 1815 to 1835 inclusive; the Amount, Decrease and Increase of Bank Paper for the same period; Depreciation of *British* Produce; the Population; Official Value of Manufactures, &c.

REMARKS on the Crops of Wheat of each Year.	1. DATE.	2. PRICE of WHEAT per Quarter.	3. AMOUNT of Country Bank Paper.	4. DECREASE per cent. of Country Bank Paper.	5. INCREASE per cent. of Country Bank Paper.	6. AMOUNT of Bank of England Issues.	7. TOTAL of Bank of England and Country Bank Paper.	8. AVERAGE Price of Wheat for periods of Five Years.
		s. *d.*	£.			£.	£.	*s.* *d.*
Full Average -	1815	64 4	19,011,000	- -	- -	26,886,000	45,897,000	93 4½
Very deficient	1816	75 10	15,096,000	20 5/10	- -	26,574,000	41,670,000	
Deficient -	1817	94 9	15,898,000	- -	5 3/10	28,274,000	44,172,000	
Average -	1818	84 1	20,507,000	- -	28 9/10	27,220,000	47,727,000	
	1819	73 –	15,701,338	23 4/10	- -	25,657,610	41,358,948	
Very abundant	1820	65 7	10,576,245	32	- -	24,553,160	35,129,405	74 7¾
Average - -	1821	54 5	8,256,180	21 9/10	- -	20,443,320	28,699,500	
Full Average -	1822	43 2	8,416,830	- -	1 9/10	18,326,430	26,743,260	
Deficient	1823	51 9	8,821,074	- -	4 8/10	19,582,348	28,403,422	
	1824	62 –	11,141,422	- -	26 1/10	20,293,326	31,434,748	
	1825	66 6	14,731,168	- -	32 2/10	19,290,570	34,021,738	55 6¾
Average -	1826	56 11	9,576,100	34 9/10	- -	22,251,600	31,827,700	
	1827	56 9½	9,985,300	- -	4 2/10	21,512,480	31,497,780	
	1828	60 5	10,121,476	- -	1 3/10	21,039,860	31,161,336	
Deficient	1829	66 3	8,131,327	19 6/10	- -	19,651,507	27,781,834	
	1830	64 3	7,600,000	6 5/10	- -	20,494,850	28,094,850	60 11
Average -	1831	66 4	7,300,000	3 9/10	- -	19,070,824	26,370,824	
	1832	58 8	—	—	—	—	—	
Extra Average	1833	52 11	—	—	—	—	—	
	1834	46 2	—	—	—	—	—	
Bare Average	1835	39 5½	—	—	—	—	—	52 8½

REMARKS on the Crops of Wheat of each Year.	DATE.	9. Rates of depreciation of British Produce and Manufactures, as shown by the difference between the Official Value and the Declared Value.	10. Population of Great Britain in round Numbers.	11. AMOUNT of TAXES for Great Britain	12. Equivalent. Ounces of Gold.	13. Of Taxes. Quarters of Wheat.	14. In Official Value of Manufactures.	15. Variation of the Pound Sterling, its Value being 20 *s.* from 1780 to 1792, with the Average Price of Wheat, 47 *s.* per Quarter.
				£.				
Full Average -	1815	- 214 -	13,000,000	70,888,772	14,621,226	24,572,718	65,185,965	Value of the Pound Sterling for Five Years ending 1815, 10 *s.* - ¾ *d.*
Very deficient -	1816	- 207 -	13,200,000	61,876,600	17,345,575	17,876,951	58,690,849	
Deficient -	1817	- 185 -	13,400,000	51,532,317	14,173,207	12,137,697	54,853,035	
Average -	1818	- 195 -	13,600,000	53,075,001	14,423,490	14,049,973	53,922,682	
	1819	- 187 -	13,800,000	52,301,107	- -	15,968,662	54,939,801	
Very abundant	1820	- 170 -	14,000,000	54,488,169	15,201,330	17,981,827	62,305,453	Ditto ending 1820, 12 *s.* 7¼ *d.*
Average - -	1821	- 150 -	14,200,000	55,123,403	15,480,810	22,154,391	66,976,009	
Full Average -	1822	- 148 -	14,400,000	54,374,638	15,209,441	27,385,787	71,351,522	
Deficient	1823	- 143 -	14,600,000	52,948,542	14,701,040	22,122,290	71,552,721	
	1824	- 141 -	14,800,000	53,270,028	14,877,513	18,687,199	73,329,515	
	1825	- 146 -	15,000,000	52,919,280	14,770,230	17,296,716	70,136,074	Ditto ending 1825, 16 *s.* 11 *d.*
Average -	1826	- 137 -	15,200,000	50,526,152	14,154,213	19,366,407	71,576,061	
	1827	- 127 -	15,400,000	50,356,111	14,125,303	19,374,590	76,389,444	
	1828	- 125 -	15,600,000	52,418,055	14,660,956	18,837,467	81,551,571	
Deficient	1829	- 114 -	15,800,000	51,029,729	14,260,523	16,755,294	86,760,800	
	1830	- 110 -	16,000,000	50,414,927	14,032,446	17,009,752	88,135,211	Ditto ending 1830, 15 *s.* 5 *d.*
Average -	1831	- 109 -	16,200,000	46,444,515	13,056,191	15,297,754	83,176,313	
	1832	- 100 -	16,400,000	47,092,234	13,227,580	17,558,492	91,973,057	
Extra Average	1833	- - -	16,600,000	46,271,326				
	1834	- - -	16,800,000					
Bare Average -	1835	- - -	17,000,000	- -	- -	- -	- -	Ditto ending 1835, 17 *s.* 10 *d.*

16.

TABLE, showing that War in itself has no tendency to raise Prices.

Wheat per Quarter.	*s.*	*d.*
1688 to 1697 — 10 years' War	42	6¾
1698 - 1701 — 4 years' Peace	46	–
1702 - 1712 — 11 years' War	39	11
1713 - 1739 — 27 years' Peace	35	10
1740 - 1748 — 9 years' War	31	9
1749 - 1754 — 6 years' Peace	34	6
1755 - 1762 — 8 years' War	37	1½
1763 - 1774 — 12 years' Peace	48	11½
1775 - 1782 — 8 years' War	46	6⅓
1783 - 1729 — 10 years' Peace	50	2½

Observations.—The prices of Wheat in column 2 (and more clearly the average prices for periods of five years in column 8) show that there has been a progressive tendency to fall during the whole of the twenty-one years ending with 1835, interrupted, indeed, occasionally, by the variations in the crops, as well as by the fluctuations in the currency; and yet it cannot be doubted that the population has increased during that time at least 4,000,000, or 30 7/10ths per cent. whilst the price of Wheat has fallen in the same time more than one-half.

Column 3 shows, that in seventeen years ending 1832 the decrease in Country Bank Paper was 61 6/10 per cent.; and column 7, that the aggregate amount of Country and Bank of England Paper had decreased 42 5/10 per cent. Column 9 shows, that British Produce and Manufactures had been reduced in nominal value more than half; column 11 shows, that although taxation had decreased considerably in nominal amount, yet columns 12, 13 and 14 show that its real pressure was not much lessened, as measured in "Ounces of Gold," in "Quarters of Wheat," or in "British Produce and Manufactures."

Column 15. The Paper Pound Sterling has been doubled in value in twenty-one years, whether measured in Wheat, in British Produce and Manufactures, or in Bullion, or nearly so.

The year 1815 was the last of three or four abundant crops of Wheat in succession, yet the price for that year was 64 *s.* 4 *d.*

The year 1835 was also preceded by several good crops of Wheat, yet the price of that year was only 39 *s.* 5½ *d.*; but the Paper Pound Sterling in 1815 was probably about half of its value in 1835.

N. B.—Columns 3, 6, 9, 11, 12, 13 and 14 are extracted from "Mr. Marshall's Digest of Parliamentary Papers."

Joseph Freeland.

559

Appendix, No. 23.

Dear Sir, Liverpool, May 16th 1836.

YOU have kindly expressed a wish that I should explain my sentiments more fully touching the present Corn Laws, than the questions put to me by the different Members of the Agricultural Committee afforded me an opportunity of doing.

I have been greatly misapprehended if I am considered an advocate for the present *degree* of protection. In my humble opinion, the pivot price of Wheat should be reduced 10*s.* per quarter, and, as a friend to both landlord and tenant, I should rejoice to see public expectation promptly and fairly met. If no anticipatory measure be adopted, and a period of excitement and high prices should arrive, there will be hasty and, probably, bad legislation on the subject.

It cannot be denied, that the owners of the land, by the influence which they possessed over the House of Commons, had the power and measure of protection in their own hands, but that power was in a great degree surrendered by the Reform Bill to those who do not own the land, and who have no interest but in reducing or destroying that protection.

Protection, to be maintained, must, therefore, have something reasonable in its nature. It must not have reference to war prices, nor war habits; such times have passed away, and any scheme which has reference to them can only tend to give a factitious value to land, and to involve both landlord and tenant in disappointment and ruin. I admit that it is very difficult to show the precise degree of protection to which the land is entitled. It pays some few charges which other property does not. The owners of it have to pay the price of the protection given to many of the Staple Manufactures of the kingdom, on all such protected articles as they consume; and therefore, it appears to me, that even on this ground, they are entitled to a reciprocating duty. But, besides this, the great advantage of being independent of foreign supply, excepting in periods of scarcity, ought not to be lightly estimated. Whatever gives political power and independence is not a matter to be frittered away by any temptation of present and temporary savings. I think, therefore, that on all these grounds, concession should be made both by the landowners and the consumers, and that neither of them should push their claims too far.

The main defect of the present law is, that though it gives moderately high, and at the same time steady prices, under import, it does not prevent them going ruinously low in periods of abundance.

It therefore appears to me to deserve consideration, whether at any time the duty on Wheat should ever be permitted to go below 4*s.* or 5*s.* per quarter. The amount of this duty might be kept as a reserved fund for a bounty on export when prices fell to a given low rate. If the holder of bonded Wheat have the option of a shilling duty, it is manifest that, when the wants of the country are imperative, he will never pay 5*s.* A minimum duty of 5*s.*, therefore, would be no tax on the public, but a reduction of his profits.

The objection to the average system on the ground of frauds said to be practised, would be removed by striking out London, Liverpool and Wakefield from the list of towns now making returns, and substituting a larger number of others. It is only in those three large markets that fraud has the slightest chance of being practised with impunity and success.

I feel quite ashamed to have again occupied your attention.

I remain, dear Sir, very faithfully yours,

Jos. Sanders.

Charles Shaw Lefevre, Esq., M. P.
Chairman of the Agricultural Committee.

Appendix, No. 24.

A RETURN of the Total Quantity of CORN and MALT sent COASTWISE from *England* to *Scotland* in each of the Ten Years ending 5th January 1836; distinguishing the different kinds of Corn, and distinguishing the Quantity from each Port and Sub-Port.

YEARS ending 5th January.	PORTS from which Shipped.	CORN AND GRAIN.							MEAL AND FLOUR.		
		Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.	Peas and Beans.	Malt.	Total of Corn and Grain.	Wheat Flour.	Oat Meal.	Total of Meal and Flour.
		Qrs.	*Qrs.*	*Qrs.*	*Qrs.*	*Qrs.*	*Qrs.*	*Qrs.*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*
	London	983	-	1,104	-	-	-	2,087	—	—	—
	Liverpool	707	18	608	-	21	82	1,436	5,764	739	6,503
	Lancaster	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	-	15
	Ulverstone	-	-	21	-	-	-	21	98	58	156
	Whitehaven	59	8	13	-	32	11	123	1,747	230	1,977
	Berwick	11,453	17,754	2,793	92	674	-	32,766	15,264	-	15,264
	Alemouth	2,259	694	1,402	-	24	-	4,379	—	—	—
	Newcastle	4,711	3,570	-	30	150	17	8,478	1,610	-	1,610
	Stockton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,025	-	3,025
	Boston	1,165	-	-	-	-	-	11,65	—	—	—
827	Lynn	10,480	17,489	-	568	202	-	28,739	—	—	—
	Wells	-	1,047	-	-	-	-	1,047	—	—	—
	Burnham	-	815	-	-	-	-	815	—	—	—
	Brancaster	-	681	-	-	-	-	681	—	—	—
	Blackney	620	5,960	-	-	-	-	6,580	—	—	—
	Clay	-	488	-	-	-	-	488	—	—	—
	Yarmouth	376	39,282	-	-	392	615	40,665	—	—	—
	Southwold	-	283	-	-	-	-	283	—	—	—
	Ipswich	-	-	-	-	400	-	400	—	—	—
	Colchester	-	4,779	-	-	-	-	4,779	—	—	—
	Maldon	-	340	-	-	-	-	340	—	—	—
	TOTAL	32,813	93,208	5,941	690	1,895	725	135,272	27,523	1,027	28,550
	Liverpool	6,875	7,798	684	-	280	58	15,695	14,195	487	14,682
	Lancaster	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	86	40	126
	Ulverstone	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	29	-	29
	Whitehaven	-	2	3	-	70	-	75	1,129	-	1,129
	Workington	-	4	3	-	-	-	7	49	-	49
	Carlisle	-	504	38	-	-	-	542	—	—	—
	Berwick	15,921	31,327	4,779	481	336	-	52,844	12,968	-	12,968
	Alemouth	4,932	1,511	117	-	-	-	6,560	2,460	-	2,460
1828	Newcastle	6,242	1,713	-	-	-	-	7,955	2,065	-	2,065
	Stockton	-	-	470	-	-	-	470	6,313	-	6,313
	Boston	1,140	-	-	-	-	-	1,140	—	—	—
	Lynn	6,866	14,300	-	107	-	-	21,273	—	—	—
	Blackney	415	9,728	-	-	-	-	10,143	—	—	—
	Yarmouth	449	36,603	-	-	240	300	37,592	24	-	24
	Southwold	315	-	-	-	-	-	315	—	—	—
	Ipswich	-	2,709	-	-	441	-	3,150	—	—	—
	Colchester	-	3,552	-	-	-	-	3,552	—	—	—
	TOTAL	43,155	109,751	6,096	588	1,367	358	161,315	39,318	527	39,845
	London	-	565	-	-	-	-	565	—	—	—
	Liverpool	744	1,770	840	2	99	29	3,484	11,726	-	11,726
	Lancaster	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40	-	40
	Ulverstone	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	4
	Whitehaven	1	-	-	-	76	1	78	1,069	-	1,069
	Workington	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	8
	Carlisle	-	4,509	318	-	-	-	4,827	-	—	—
	Berwick	7,834	40,210	5,113	248	671	-	54,076	11,476	-	11,476
	Alemouth	562	1,369	117	-	-	-	2,048	3,648	-	3,648
	Newcastle	4,212	10,879	-	247	425	137	15,900	1,173	-	1,173
	Stockton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,100	-	3,100
1829	Hull	1,654	1,249	-	-	70	-	2,973	—	—	—
	Gainsborough	-	369	-	-	-	-	369	—	—	—
	Grimsby	955	-	-	-	-	-	955	—	—	—
	Boston	685	570	-	-	-	-	1,255	165	-	165
	Lynn	7,521	20,465	-	1,427	6	-	29,419	—	—	—
	Wells	-	100	-	-	-	160	260	125	-	125
	Blackney	-	6,670	-	-	-	-	6,670	—	—	—
	Yarmouth	93	39,395	-	37	-	-	39,525	148	-	148
	Southwold	93	1,114	-	-	-	-	1,207	—	—	—
	Ipswich	-	2,288	-	-	-	-	2,288	—	—	—
	Mistley	-	1,026	-	-	-	-	1,026	—	—	—
	Colchester	-	4,950	-	-	-	-	4,950	—	—	—
	TOTAL	24,354	137,498	6,388	1,961	1,3 47	327	171,875	32,682	—	32,682

RETURN of the Total Quantity of Corn and Malt sent Coastwise from *England* to *Scotland—continued.*

YEARS ending 5th January.	PORTS from which Shipped.	CORN AND GRAIN.							MEAL AND FLOUR.		
		Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.	Peas and Beans.	Malt.	Total of Corn and Grain.	Wheat Flour.	Oat Meal.	Total of Meal and Flour.
		Qrs.	*Qrs.*	*Qrs.*	*Qrs.*	*Qrs.*	*Qrs.*	*Qrs.*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*
1830	London	820	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	820	—	—	—
	Liverpool	3,665	986	- -	- -	30	4	4,685	12,888	180	13,068
	Ulverstone	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	33	- -	33
	Whitehaven	- -	2	6	- -	42	- -	50	1,044	- -	1,044
	Workington	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	13	- -	13
	Carlisle	- -	1,550	- -	- -	- -	- -	1,550	—	—	—
	Berwick	4,453	19,325	6,078	66	649	- -	30,571	9,208	- -	9,208
	Alemouth	72	473	- -	- -	- -	- -	545	644	- -	644
	Newcastle	29,661	12,065	- -	5,679	754	122	48,281	2,150	- -	2,150
	Sunderland	710	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	710	—	—	—
	Stockton	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	195	- -	195
	Hull	794	2,378	- -	- -	400	- -	3,572	—	—	—
	Lynn	2,227	11,241	- -	104	- -	- -	13,572	—	—	—
	Blackney	401	4,060	- -	8	- -	- -	4,469	—	—	—
	Yarmouth	6	26,035	- -	- -	- -	- -	26,041	688	- -	688
	Southwold	10	192	- -	- -	- -	148	350	—	—	—
	Colchester	- -	324	- -	- -	- -	- -	324	—	—	—
	Total	42,819	78,631	6,084	5,857	1,875	274	135,540	26,863	180	27,043
1831	London	607	- -	83	- -	504	- -	1,194	—	—	—
	Plymouth	- -	440	- -	- -	- -	- -	440	—	—	—
	Liverpool	1,948	122	252	42	134	25	2,523	10,717	90	10,807
	Lancaster	- -	- -	4	- -	- -	4	8	—	—	—
	Whitehaven	3	26	53	- -	79	- -	161	978	100	1,078
	Workington	- -	- -	9	- -	- -	- -	9	84	- -	84
	Carlisle	- -	1,609	- -	- -	- -	- -	1,609	—	—	—
	Berwick	824	24,331	9,095	- -	860	- -	35,110	16,292	- -	16,292
	Newcastle	12,404	2,143	3,447	- -	512	67	18,573	260	- -	260
	Sunderland	660	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	660	10	- -	10
	Hull	9,514	653	- -	- -	900	- -	11,067	—	—	—
	Lynn	135	12,875	- -	212	2,236	- -	15,458	—	—	—
	Blackney	- -	1,100	- -	- -	- -	- -	1,100	—	—	—
	Yarmouth	62	16,166	- -	- -	186	- -	16,414	—	—	—
	Ipswich	- -	- -	280	- -	268	- -	548	—	—	—
	Mistly	- -	394	- -	- -	- -	- -	394	—	—	—
	Colchester	- -	7,256	- -	- -	- -	- -	7,256	—	—	—
	Maldon	- -	1,350	- -	- -	- -	- -	1,350	—	—	—
	TOTAL	26,157	68,465	13,223	254	5,679	96	113,874	28,341	190	28,531
1832	Plymouth	- -	463	- -	- -	- -	- -	463	—	—	—
	Liverpool	5,672	434	423	206	361	60	7,156	24,380	663	25,043
	Lancaster	8	- -	1,200	- -	- -	- -	1,208	5	- -	5
	Ulverstone	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	-	6	- -	6
	Whitehaven	46	258	232	- -	63	-	599	1,120	4	1,124
	Berwick	2,871	10,247	6,624	55	1,979	- -	21,776	13,120	- -	13,120
	Alemouth	- -	- -	760	- -	190	- -	950	—	—	—
	Rudle	- -	250	400	- -	400	- -	1,050	13,380	- -	13,380
	Newcastle	4,381	7,157	- -	1,659	903	50	14,150	1,873	- -	1,873
	Sunderland	- -	126	- -	- -	- -	- -	126	—	—	—
	Hull	533	369	5,157	- -	203	- -	6,262	—	—	—
	Lynn	398	4,607	- -	- -	10,822	- -	15,827	—	—	—
	Blackney	- -	250	- -	- -	120	- -	370	—	—	—
	Yarmouth	- -	6,156	- -	- -	2,520	116	8,792	80	- -	80
	Woodbridge	150	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	150	—	—	—
	Ipswich	- -	- -	- -	- -	3,896	- -	3,896	—	—	—
	Mistly	- -	- -	- -	- -	420	- -	420	—	—	—
	Maldon	- -	- -	- -	- -	260	- -	260	—	—	—
	TOTAL	14,059	30,317	14,796	1,920	22,137	226	83,455	53,964	667	54,631

RETURN of the Total Quantity of Corn and Malt sent Coastwise from *England* to *Scotland—continued.*

YEARS ending 5th January	PORTS from which Shipped.	CORN AND GRAIN.							MEAL AND FLOUR.		
		Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.	Peas and Beans.	Malt.	Total of Corn and Grain.	Wheat Flour.	Oat Meal.	Total of Meal and Flour.
		Qrs.	*Qrs.*	*Qrs.*	*Qrs.*	*Qrs.*	*Qrs.*	*Qrs.*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*
	Plymouth	-	751	-	-	-	-	751	—	—	—
	Liverpool	1,077	12	10	-	31	29	1,159	6,276	25	6,301
	Lancaster	-	-	22	-	-	-	22	42	-	42
	Ulverstone	-	-	15	-	-	-	15	—	—	—
	Whitehaven	-	150	-	45	59	20	274	954	6	960
	Workington	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	7
	Berwick	4,970	12,698	920	-	760	-	19,348	13,188	-	13,188
1833	Budle	80	-	270	-	-	-	350	12,960	-	12,960
	Newcastle	1,724	-	-	-	4	18	1,746	608	-	608
	Sunderland	-	200	-	-	-	-	200	—	—	—
	Hull	485	-	-	-	-	-	485	300	-	300
	Grimsby	150	-	-	-	-	-	150	—	—	—
	Lynn	-	1,089	-	-	-	-	1,089	—	—	—
	Yarmouth	-	2,696	-	-	-	200	2,896	124	-	124
	TOTAL	8,486	17,596	1,237	45	854	267	28,485	34,459	31	34,490
	London	-	-	-	-	161	-	161	—	—	—
	Plymouth	-	1,376	-	-	-	-	1,376	—	—	—
	Liverpool	8,273	2	-	2	21	35	8,333	10,335	-	10,335
	Lancaster	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	8
	Whitehaven	2	250	-	-	31	-	283	1,521	-	1,521
	Workington	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23	-	23
	Carlisle	-	2,643	-	-	-	56	2,699	—	—	—
	Berwick	4,319	13,821	587	-	299	25	19,051	6,576	-	6,576
	Alemouth	374	313	-	-	-	-	687	—	—	—
	Budle	300	3,364	-	-	-	-	3,664	12,424	-	12,424
1834	Newcastle	2,070	-	-	-	13	31	2,114	1,030	-	1,030
	Stockton	-	-	-	-	-	28	28	—	—	—
	Hull	2,696	-	-	-	-	-	2,696	88	-	88
	Lynn	1,839	17,714	-	-	265	-	19,818	—	—	—
	Wells	-	600	-	-	-	240	840	—	—	—
	Blackney	-	1,550	-	-	-	-	1,550	—	—	—
	Yarmouth	-	14,344	-	-	-	-	14,344	—	—	—
	Colchester	-	340	-	-	-	-	340	—	—	—
	TOTAL	19,873	56,317	587	2	790	415	77,984	32,005	-	32,005
	Plymouth	-	465	-	-	-	-	465	—	—	—
	Liverpool	7,755	14	-	-	16	-	7,785	11,584	-	11,584
	Lancaster	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28	-	28
	Ulverstone	-	-	7	-	-	-	7	3	-	3
	Whitehaven	-	120	-	-	21	5	146	1,195	2	1,197
	Workington	-	-	13	-	-	-	13	—	—	—
	Carlisle	-	373	-	-	-	35	408	29	-	29
	Berwick	3,341	6,819	414	-	312	-	10,886	2,728	-	2,728
	Alemouth	645	589	-	-	-	-	1,234	—	—	—
1835	Budle	-	2,611	-	-	-	-	2,611	16,200	-	16,200
	Newcastle	3,472	3,768	-	-	1,057	-	8,297	3,720	-	3,720
	Sunderland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	-	100
	Hull	8	-	-	-	139	-	147	—	—	—
	Wisbeach	4,090	-	-	-	-	-	4,090	—	—	—
	Lynn	6,801	547	-	-	-	-	7,348	—	—	—
	Yarmouth	-	206	-	-	-	-	206	—	—	—
	TOTAL	26,112	15,512	434	-	1,545	40	43,643	35,587	2	35,589

RETURN of the Total Quantity of Corn and Malt sent Coastwise from *England* to *Scotland*—*continued.*

YEARS ending 5th January.	PORTS from which shipped.	CORN AND GRAIN. Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.	Peas and Beans	Malt.	Total of Corn and Grain.	Wheat Flour.	Oat Meal.	Total of Meal and Flour.
		Qrs.	*Qrs.*	*Qrs.*	*Qrs.*	*Qrs.*	*Qrs.*	*Qrs.*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*
	Liverpool	2,062	615	-	-	55	5	2,737	9,601	-	9,601
	Lancaster	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	115	-	115
	Ulverstone	-	-	5	-	-	1	6	—	—	—
	Whitehaven	-	169	-	-	33	-	202	1,334	86	1,420
	Carlisle	-	67	-	-	-	-	67	1	-	1
	Berwick	5,899	22,599	3,840	-	683	-	33,021	3,464	-	3,464
	Alemouth	551	100	150	-	-	-	801	—	—	—
	Budle	950	1,572	200	-	-	-	2,722	25,604	-	25,604
	Newcastle	3,689	440	-	-	14	8	4,151	14,277	-	14,277
1836	Sunderland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	-	30
	Stockton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,630	-	2,630
	Hull	70	-	-	-	158	-	228	—	—	—
	Boston	5,100	-	-	-	200	-	5,300	—	—	—
	Wisbeach	2,780	-	-	-	-	-	2,780	—	—	—
	Lynn	24,338	8,290	395	-	50	-	33,073	—	—	—
	Blackney	929	2,620	-	-	-	-	3,549	—	—	—
	Yarmouth	744	9,095	-	-	-	-	9,839	—	—	—
	Southwold	330	537	-	-	-	-	867	—	—	—
	Ipswich	181	46	-	-	100	-	327	—	—	—
	TOTAL	47,623	46,150	4,590	-	1,293	14	99,670	57,056	86	57,142

ABSTRACT of the preceding ACCOUNT; showing the TOTAL QUANTITIES of CORN, GRAIN, MEAL and FLOUR Shipped Coastwise from *England* to *Scotland*, in each of the Ten Years ending 5th January 1836.

YEARS ending 5th January.	CORN AND GRAIN. Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.	Peas and Beans.	Malt.	Total of Corn and Grain.	MEAL AND FLOUR. Wheat Flour.	Oatmeal.	Total of Meal and Flour.
	Qrs.	*Qrs.*	*Qrs.*	*Qrs.*	*Qrs.*	*Qrs.*	*Qrs.*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*
1827	32,813	93,208	5,941	690	1,895	725	135,272	27,523	1,027	28,550
1828	43,155	109,751	6,096	588	1,367	358	161,315	39,318	527	39,845
1829	24,354	137,498	6,388	1,961	1,347	327	171,875	32,682	-	32,682
1830	42,819	78,631	6,084	5,857	1,875	274	135,540	26,863	180	27,043
1831	26,157	68,465	13,223	254	5,679	96	113,874	28,341	190	28,531
1832	14,059	30,317	14,796	1,920	22,137	226	83,455	53,964	667	54,631
1833	8,486	17,596	1,237	45	854	267	28,485	34,459	31	34,490
1834	19,873	56,317	587	2	790	415	77,984	32,005	-	32,005
1835	26,112	15,512	434	-	1,545	40	43,643	35,587	2	35,589
1836	47,623	46,150	4,590	-	1,293	14	99,670	57,056	86	57,142

Inspector General's Office,
Custom-House, London, 18 June 1836.

William Irving,
Inspector-General of Imports and Exports.

Appendix, No. 25.

STATEMENT of the Prices paid for the undermentioned descriptions of Provisions and Household Stores bought for the use of the Royal Hospital at *Greenwich*, at various periods from 1790 to 1835, showing the Aggregate Amount of those Prices per Hundred-weight, Sack, Pound, Bushel, &c. in each Year; and the Variations in that Aggregate as compared with 1790, the first Year of the Series.

YEARS.	Flesh, per Cwt.	Flour, per Sac.	Butter, per lb.	Cheese, per lb.	Peas, per Bushel.	Oatmeal, per Bush.	Salt, per Bush.	Malt, per Quar.	Hops, per Cwt.	Beer, per Barrel.	Candles, per doz. lbs.	Shoes, per Pair.	Coals, per Chaldron	Stockings, per Pair.	Hats, each.	Blankets, each.	Coats, each.	Aggregate Amount of the preceding Columns in each Year.	Centesimal Proportion of each Year as compared with 1790, valuing the Amount in that Year at 1·00.	Aggregate Amount of the same Columns, exclusive of Hops.[7]	Centesimal Proportion of each year, exclusive of Hops, as compared with 1790, valuing the Amount in that Year at 1·00.[7]	Years.
	s. *d.*	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*	£. *s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*	£. *s.* *d.*		£. *s.* *d.*		
1790	36 10	43 4	– 6½	– 4	7 6	5 3	4 8	35 6	6 13 9	8 7	7 9	3 11½	34 4¼	1 6	2 6	5 4¼	20 8	17 12 4¾	1·00	10 18 7¾	1·00	1790.
1795	42 10	65 8	– 8½	– 5½	9 6	6 4¾	6 1¼	48 3	7 7 10	10 4½	9 2	4 –	39 9	1 6	2 3	6 6	20 2	21 1 5	1·19	13 13 7	1·25	1795.
1800	64 4	96 –	– 11⅜	– 6¼	13 5	14 –	14 –	84 –	16 15 9	20 4¼	10 4	5 8	51 7	1 6	2 3	6 6	20 –	37 1 1½	2·10	20 5 4½	1·85	1800.
1805	60 4	82 3	– 11⅜	– 7¼	7 9	12 –	6 10½	85 7	6 11 6	17 9½	10 7	5 9	51 8¾	2 2	3 –	8 9	21 10	25 9 5¾	1·44	18 17 11¾	1·73	1805.
1806	61 –	69 6½	– 11½	– 7⅛	8 4½	10 3	19 9	76 –	6 7 9	16 3¼	10 3	5 9	53 4	2 2	3 –	8 9	21 10	24 15 7	1·40	18 7 10	1·68	1806.
1807	63 –	63 8¾	1 0⅛	– 7½	14 4¼	9 4¾	19 9	73 1½	5 19 –	15 5	9 10	5 –	54 –	2 2	3 –	8 9	21 6	24 3 8	1·37	18 4 8	1·66	1807.
1808	63 –	69 10½	1 0¼	– 7⅞	19 2⅜	10 10	19 9	76 1⅛	4 12 6	16 5½	13 2½	5 –	55 9¾	2 2	3 –	8 9	21 4	23 18 8½	1·35	19 6 2½	1·76	1808.
1809	66 6	85 1½	1 1	– 8	14 10¾	11 9	19 9	84 5¼	7 6 8	17 –	14 5½	5 6	60 9¾	2 2	3 –	8 9	21 4	28 3 10¾	1·59	20 17 2¾	1·90	1809.
1810	72 –	88 4	1 1⅜	– 8⅛	9 5	11 7	19 9	84 5	7 6 8	17 10	12 –	5 6	60 8	2 2	3 –	8 9	21 4	28 5 2½	1·60	20 18 6½	1·91	1810.
1811	74 –	91 –	1 2½	– 8¼	8 9	11 6	19 9	73 6	7 13 6	16 3¾	10 9¾	4 11	61 6	2 2	3 –	8 9	22 2	28 13 6⅓	1·63	21 – –⅓	1·92	1811.
1812	78 –	107 5	1 3½	– 8½	12 8½	13 3	19 9	98 6	9 17 –	20 9¼	12 6	4 11	56 1	2 6	3 –	8 9	22 2	32 19 3⅔	1·87	23 2 3¾	2.11	1812.
1813	85 –	93 –	1 3	– 8¾	13 8¼	13 3	19 9	96 6	11 11 8	21 10¼	14 2	4 8	56 7¼	2 6	3 –	8 9	22 2	34 8 6½	1·95	22 16 10½	2·09	1813.
1814	74 6	70 6	1 2	– 8⅜	9 4	10 4	19 9	77 8	9 10 –	17 3½	14 6	4 8	62 2¼	3 3	3 –	11 6	24 6	29 14 10¼	1·68	20 4 10¼	1·85	1814.
1815	68 –	44 9	1 2	– 8	6 7¼	10 3	19 9	69 7⅛	9 13 7	15 4⅜	11 7	4 7	55 6⅜	3 3	3 –	11 3	24 9	27 3 9	1·54	17 10 2	1.60	1815.
1816	51 4	64 1	– 9½	– 6½	7 0½	9 2	19 9	69 4½	14 – –	15 8	9 3	4 7	49 6⅜	2 9	3 –	9 4½	24 9	31 1 –	1·76	17 1 –	1·56	1816.
1817	51 4	86 4	– 8¾	– 5½	8 6¾	13 9	19 9	86 10½	22 4 0	20 7	9 10	3 10	46 7	2 9	3 –	9 4½	20 7	41 8 4	2·35	19 4 4	1·75	1817.
1818	59 –	65 11	– 11	– 6	10 9	13 6	19 9	83 9	7 15 –	19 7	11 1	3 10	48 6	2 11	3 –	9 4½	20 7	26 7 11½	1·49	18 12 11½	1·71	1818.
1819	64 3	57 5	– 11	– 8	7 8	12 9	19 9	72 11⅞	4 – –	15 3¾	8 6¼	4 2¾	46 8	2 11	3 –	[5]9 4½	21 10½	21 8 3½	1·21	17 8 3½	1·59	1819.
1820	70 4½	55 1	– 9½	– 7	7 5¾	13 4½	19 9	68 8¼	3 16 –	13 10½	8 2¾	4 4½	45 9	2 9½	3 –	9 4½	22 7	21 2 1	1·19	17 6 1	1·58	1820.
1821	58 10	45 3¼	– 8¾	– 6	5 9	8 8¼	19 4½	61 11	4 4 –	12 10¼	7 1¼	4 3	46 6	2 8	3 –	9 4½	21 11	19 12 8¾	1·11	15 8 8¾	1·41	1821.
1822	39 5½	37 5⅔	– 7½	– 5	5 0½	8 6	18 –	52 8½	3 16 –	11 5¾	6 1½	4 2½	44 6¼	2 5	3 –	9 4½	21 3	17 – 7¼	0·96	13 4 7½	1·21	1822.
1823	42 7¼	44 5	– 7¼	– 4	5 6	[2]8 10	[3]17 10	59 11	9 19 –	12 5½	5 6	4 7⅜	46 7	2 2	3 –	9 4½	21 11½	24 4 8½	1·37	14 5 8	1·30	1823.
1824	42 8¼	46 2	– 8¼	– 4¼	5 11	9 9	17 9	62 1	7 5 –	14 10¼	5 6	4 9½	43 8	2 1⅜	3 –	9 4⅜	21 2	21 14 10⅜	1·23	14 9 10⅜	1·32	1824.
1825	59 6½	53 4	– 10½	– 5½	[1]6 9	10 –	17 10	71 10¼	23 – –	16 6½	6 –	4 6	43 2	2 1½	3 –	9 4⅜	21 8	39 6 11⅜	2·23	16 6 11⅜	1·49	1825.
1826	57 8	45 2¾	– 9½	– 6½	7 1	10 10	16 10½	65 1	15 5 –	17 5½	5 9½	4 5	40 4	2 0¼	3 –	9 4½	22 2	30 8 7⅜	1·72	15 3 7⅜	1·39	1826.
1827	55 4½	43 6	– 8¼	– 5½	7 4	14 3	16 8	64 10	4 10 –	13 8¼	5 10	4 3½	41 5¼	1 10¼	3 –	7 6½	21 4	19 12 0⅜	1·11	15 2 –⅜	1·83	1827.
1828	50 7¼	46 0⅜	– 8½	– 5¼	6 3	10 7	16 10	61 7	4 10 –	13 1	5 10¼	4 3	40 8¼	1 9½	3 –	7 2	20 7	18 19 5⅜	1·07	14 9 5⅜	1·32	1828.
1829	46 3½	55 10½	– 8	– 5	5 8	10 7	16 8	61 10½	5 9 6	13 4	5 6¼	3 9⅜	36 7	1 9½	3 –	7 2	20 9	19 19 6	1·12	14 10 –	1·32	1829.
1830	43 6	54 11	– 6½	– 4	5 10	9 8	16 8	56 1¼	5 9 6	12 6½	5 3½	3 6	32 11	1 6½	3 –	5 11¼	[6]20 9	19 2 6½	1·08	13 13 –½	1.25	1830.
1831	44 3½	60 5¼	– 9⅜	– 4⅜	6 6	10 –	16 8	70 5¼	5 11 –	16 0¼	6 –	3 6	27 –	1 6½	3 –	5 11¼	22 2	20 8 8½	1·16	14 17 8½	1·36	1831.
1832	46 2¼	53 1	– 8⅜	– 3⅓	5 9	9 9	16 8	58 8	6 15 –	13 1⅜	5 2½	3 4½	[4]32 9	1 7½	3 –	6 1⅜	22 7	20 13 11½	1·17	13 18 11½	1·27	1832.
1833	46 6	44 1⅜	– 8¼	– 4½	5 7	9 2	16 6	54 6	6 15 –	12 2	5 2½	3 4½	21 6	1 7½	3 –	6 1¾	23 –	19 8 5¾	1·10	12 13 5¾	1·16	1833.
1834	43 9	37 6½	– 7¾	– 4¼	5 10	7 9	16 3	55 1½	5 1 –	12 3⅔	5 6	3 3⅜	20 1⅜	1 8½	3 –	7 0¼	25 6	17 7 –	0·98	12 6 –	1·12	1834.
1835	40 7½	31 0⅜	– 7½	– 4	5 7	8 3	16 6	61 4½	5 – –	13 9½	5 2	3 3⅜	22 6	1 9½	– –	6 10⅜	24 11	17 2 5⅜	0·97	12 2 33	1·10	1835.

Several alterations having been made in the mode of supplying the Hospital during the years embraced by this Statement, it has been thought necessary to make such alterations in the Tables furnished by the Officers of the Hospital, as will bring the different years into agreement with each other, thus:

[1] Since 1825, Split Peas have been substituted for whole Peas, at an increased price per bushel. In the foregoing statement the proportionate prices of whole Peas are given throughout.

[2] Since 1823, Oatmeal has been purchased by the hundred-weight; the proportionate price per bushel has been continued throughout.

[3] In 1823, the Duty on Salt was diminished, and in 1825 it was repealed. The prices given throughout are inclusive of the Duty payable before 1823

[4] In and after 1832, Coals were bought by weight; the proportionate price per chaldron has been continued.

[5] In 1819, Suits of Bedding were substituted for Blankets. The price for the year 1819, viz. 2*l.* 19*s.* 10½*d.* having been assumed to be proportionate to the rate charged in the three preceding years for Blankets, the prices of Blankets during the remaining years have been calculated accordingly.

[6] Coats were no longer supplied from 1829; but Suits of Clothes having been purchased from 1818, downwards, the price of Coats has been calculated in the proportion which they bore to Suits of Clothes from 1818 to 1828, and added to the Statement accordingly.

[7] These two columns are added, because of the violent fluctuations in price to which the article of Hops is subject from the influence of seasons, and which deranges altogether the comparison drawn between the prices of the different years embraced in the Table.

Statistical Department, Board of Trade,
6 July 1836.

G. R. Porter.

565

Appendix, No. 26.

RETURNS to the CIRCULAR ORDER of the SELECT COMMITTEE on AGRICULTURE, of 18th of May 1836; showing the manner in which the FIARS PRICES are struck in the several Counties in *Scotland*. Appendix, No. 26.

QUESTIONS circulated by the SELECT COMMITTEE on AGRICULTURE.

1. THE authority under which the fiars are struck?—

2. The period in each year upon which the fiars are struck?—

3. The qualification of the jurymen summoned to strike the fiars, and the manner of summoning the same, and the power of enforcing their attendance?—

4. The qualification and the occupation of the persons summoned to give evidence before the sheriff and the jury, and the manner of summoning the same, and of enforcing attendance; and whether the witnesses are examined upon oath?—

5. The quantity and the several kinds of grain and meal, and other articles included in the fiars prices during each of the last ten years; distinguishing whether the grain and other articles must be the growth and produce of the county; whether the whole of the grain sold within the county is included, or whether only a portion, and what portion, of each such species of grain is included; and, if any foreign produce is included, to what the same extended?—

6. Whether the personal knowledge of the jury is in any case taken as the foundation upon which the fiars are struck?—

7. The manner in which the fiars prices of the same kind of grain are divided into different classes, and the principle upon which the same is calculated?—

8. Whether any, and what, alteration has been made in the mode of striking the fiars within the last twenty years?—

ANSWERS to QUESTIONS circulated by the SELECT COMMITTEE.

ABERDEENSHIRE.

1. THE fiars prices are struck under authority of an Act of Sederunt of the Court of Session in Scotland, dated 21st December 1723; and all the provisions of this enactment are complied with in the county of Aberdeen.

2. This Act provides, that the jury for striking the fiars prices shall be convened yearly between the 4th and 20th of February, and shall pronounce their verdict on or before the 1st of March. These dates are held to be old style.

3. The Act requires, that of the fifteen jurors who serve as jurymen not fewer than eight shall be heritors. The remaining seven are usually selected from respectable farmers and persons residing in the county town and neighbourhood. The jury are summoned in virtue of a warrant from the Sheriff; and they are cited to attend under a penalty of one hundred merks Scots.

4. The witnesses examined before the jury are grain-dealers and others having a knowledge of the state of the market. They are brought from different parts of the county—are cited by the Sheriff's warrant, and under the same penalty as the jurymen; and they are examined on oath.

5. The following table shows the different kinds of grain and meal, and other articles included in the fiars prices during the last ten years.

Oatmeal.	Oats 2d quality without fodder.
Farm.	Ditto with fodder.
Farm or market bere without fodder.	Malt.
Ditto with fodder.	Peas.
Barley without fodder.	Wheat without fodder.
Ditto with fodder.	Ditto with fodder.
Oats 1st quality without fodder.	Beans.
Ditto with fodder.	

Appendix, No. 26.

In striking the fiars prices, evidence was not led and could not be led in regard to the whole grain, the growth of the county, or sold therein; but no evidence was admitted in regard to foreign grain or grain not the growth of the county.

6. The personal knowledge of a juryman is admitted as evidence, provided it is stated in open court, before the inquest is enclosed.

7. This Query is understood to apply to the division of oats into different qualities, and to the distinction between barley and bere or bigg. In the County of Aberdeen there are two qualities of oats of which the fiars prices are struck, viz., potato and common oats. The distinction is well known in the market, which is the only principle that can be assigned for striking separate fiars prices. The distinction between barley and bere is also well known.

8. There has been no alteration in the mode of striking fiars for the last twenty years, excepting that, in consequence of the new laws in regard to weights and measures, the prices are now struck in reference to the imperial standards in place of the old local measures. It may be also mentioned that witnesses are now brought from all parts of the county to be examined on oath, while some years ago, written returns only were obtained from persons who resided at a distance from the county town.

Aberdeen, 26th May 1836. *Alexander Mitchell,* Sheriff-clerk Depute.

AYRSHIRE.

1. The authority under which the fiars prices of the county are struck, is an act of Sederunt of the Lords of Council and Session, dated 21st December 1723.

2. The period in each year upon which they are so struck, is usually betwixt the 20th and last day of February.

3. There are fifteen jurymen summoned, eight of whom are heritors or persons possessed of landed property, and the others are respectable persons. They are summoned in virtue of a precept issued by the Sheriff, (who also selects the jury,) and are bound to give attendance under a penalty of 5*l.* 11*s.* 1⅓*d.* No instance has occurred where this penalty has been exacted, the attendance being always given. The jurors are put on oath to return a just and true verdict, according to the evidence to be laid before them.

4. There are fifteen witnesses summoned from different parts of the county, in the same way as the jurors are; they are farmers and persons dealing in grain; they are examined on oath.

5. The several kinds of grain and meal, and other articles included in the fiars prices are oatmeal, bere, wheat, barley, peas, beans and white corn, which must be the growth and produce of the county. The price of the meal is fixed according to the boll, and the others by the quarter, on terms of the Act of Parliament. The witnesses give evidence as to the quantity of grain sold and the price thereof betwixt the 1st day of November and the day of appearance, so far as the same come under their knowledge. No foreign grain, although sold within the county, is allowed to be taken into computation.

6. The jurors decide according to the evidence laid before them, taking the average price of the whole, and not from mere personal knowledge.

7.

8. No alteration has been made in the mode of striking the fiars within the last twenty years.

Gilbert M'Nab, Sheriff-clerk Depute.

Sheriff-clerk's Office, Ayr, 25th May 1836.

BANFFSHIRE.

1. That they are struck in presence of the Sheriff, under the authority of the Act of Sederunt of the Lords of Council and Session, of date 21st December 1723.

2. That the period in each year in which they are struck, is between the 4th and 20th February, old style, in terms of the said Act, that is, early in the month of March.

3. The qualification of jurymen is, respectability and "having knowledge and experience of the prices and trade of victual, in the bounds," in terms of said Act of Sederunt. They are summoned by virtue of a warrant from the Sheriff, under the penalty of one hundred merks Scots each, by one of his own officers, and if they fail to appear they are fined accordingly.

4. From 40 to 60 persons annually are summoned as jurymen by the Sheriff's warrant, eight of them heritors, out of whom the Sheriff chooses fifteen to sit as jurymen; and the others, unless those that may be discharged, attend and give evidence upon oath, as they may be required and called on by the Sheriff. They are composed of heritors, corn-merchants, bakers, meal-dealers, farmers, distillers, &c.; in short, all who are thought to have sufficient knowledge and experience in the price and trade of victual.

5 There is no definite quantity in bulk struck of the several kinds of grain and meal, it altogether depending upon the amount sold, which varies yearly, and in some instances considerably. All the prices of our several kinds of grain are struck on the imperial quarter, that is by the fair average value of the imperial quarter; and the oatmeal by the like value of a quantity of 140 pounds weight imperial. The kinds struck during the last ten years are wheat, barley without fodder, barley with fodder, best bere without fodder, best bere with fodder, second bere,

bere without fodder, second bere with fodder, potato oats without fodder, potato oats with fodder, common oats without fodder, common oats with fodder, oatmeal per 140lbs. imperial, peas beans, and rye;* they must all be the growth and produce of the county. It is thought that the greater proportion of each such species of grain sold within the county is included in striking the fiars, and no instance is known of grain sold within the county not the produce of the county, or of foreign grain being included; indeed they are excluded.

6. The jurymen are all sworn and their evidence is taken in conjunction with that of the witnesses adduced; such of the jurymen as have evidence to offer give it in public court.

7. The same kinds of grain are classified according to their quality and the weight is taken as the test. The jury, in their own minds, fix on the qualities and weights to be comprehended in such kind, where two species of the same kind are struck, but make no record thereof in their verdict, and the general average of the whole evidence on each particular kind, is taken as the criterion of the prices.

8. It does not seem that any alteration has taken place in the mode of striking the fiars within the last twenty years, unless those under the statutes altering and regulating weights and measures.

Banff, 2d June 1836. *W. Rose*, Sheriff-clerk.

* *Note.* Rye is included annually an article for trial, but it is little grown in this country, and no fiars price is struck thereon for want of evidence.

BERWICK.

1. The fiars are struck under the authority of Act of Sederunt of the Lords of Council and Session, 1723.

2. The fiars are struck each year in February for crop preceding, and the sales and purchases are brought down to Candlemas, being the 2d day of February.

3. I am not aware that there is any particular qualification, except that the persons called as jurors and witnesses, must be persons who deal in, and have a perfect knowledge of the prices of grain. They consist entirely of landed gentlemen or heritors, tenants, millers and other dealers in corn. A book is made up by the Sheriff containing the names of all persons within the county liable to be called as jurors or witnesses, and from this book are annually chosen one or two persons from each parish, according to its size, and the book shows the particular years each person has been called as a juror or witness. When the book is exhausted a new list is taken up. In terms of the Sheriff's warrant, an officer of court gives a formal citation to each juror and witness, and at the same time delivers to each a printed schedule, a copy of which is herewith sent, pointing out the manner of filling up the same, and striking the average on the sales and purchases. The number of jurors summoned is uniformly forty-five, and when they appear in court the Sheriff marks off fifteen of the most intelligent to form the jury, and the remaining thirty are called upon, in presence of the jury, to produce their schedules, which are regularly sworn to, and then handed over to the foreman of the jury; and this mode is continued till the whole of the thirty are examined, and have produced their schedules. Should the Sheriff or any of the jury be of opinion that sufficient evidence has not been produced, they proceed to examine any of the witnesses in court who may be able to throw light upon the subject, after which the jury retire, and are generally enclosed for two or three hours in making up their verdict, by carefully scrutinizing the different schedules, and deliberating upon the import of the statements therein contained. Before the jury leave the court the Sheriff invariably informs them that they may make use of their own schedules, as well as those of the witnesses, in determining the fiars. A copy of petition and warrant for summoning jurors and witnesses is herewith produced, and marked No. 2. There is also produced a list of jurors for last year, and copy of motion and sentence, showing the mode of compelling jurors and witnesses to attend.

4. The qualification and occupation of the persons summoned to give evidence before the sheriff and the jury, are the same as regards both jurors and witnesses, and, as above mentioned, the witnesses are examined on oath. The Sheriff has power to compel the attendance of jurors and witnesses, and may impose a fine in cases of contumacy. The jurors as well as the witnesses are formally summoned by a Sheriff's officer, and served each with a schedule as above mentioned.

5. The several kinds of grain, &c., included in the fiars prices, consist of wheat, Merse barley, Lammermuir barley, Merse oats, Lammermuir oats, rough bere, peas, and oatmeal. The schedules, to the correctness of which the witnesses are sworn, generally state the whole quantities of corn and meal bought or sold within the time specified. The corn and meal must be entirely the growth and produce of the county; the whole of the grain sold in the county is certainly not included, but only such parts thereof as have been bought or sold by the witnesses or jurors; as, however, the jurors and witnesses are taken from nearly all the parishes in the county, the averages of their sales and purchases afford a pretty correct data of the whole county. No foreign grain, or grain not the produce of the county is taken into calculation in striking the fiars, although such grain may have been bought or sold within the county.—*Vide* Schedule No. 1. It is impossible to give the quantity of the several kinds of grain and meal included in the fiars prices during each of the last ten years, as it frequently happens that farmers of great intelligence merely fill up the averages in their schedules, instead of filling up the whole quantities sold, and this frequently arises from a disinclination to disclose to the public the precise quantity of corn sold from the farm.

6. As already stated, the jurors make use of their own schedules as well as those of the witnesses in striking the averages and fixing the fiars prices, and there can be little doubt that the jurors also take into account their own personal knowledge as to the prices of grain upon

Appendix, No. 26.

points in which they are all agreed; but, generally speaking, the evidence on which the jurors act, is strictly confined to the evidence afforded by their own schedules, and those of the witnesses examined on oath. After the evidence is concluded, the jury retire into a separate apartment to make up their verdict, when each schedule is separately examined, and instances have occurred where the jury have, after retiring, sent for a witness to explain some points in his schedule which appeared ambiguous or doubtful.

7. The only distinction in the county of Berwick on this head, applies to barley and oats, which are divided into Merse barley and oats, and Lammermuir barley and oats. Lammermuir being a hilly district of the county, the grain produced thereon is considered inferior in quality, and the fiars prices are uniformly less than those of Merse corn. The fiars price is therefore fixed separately, and evidence from Lammermuir is led as to the price of the same. The schedules produced by persons who reside in the Lammermuir hills are classed by themselves, and the averages struck accordingly.

8. There has been little or no change in the mode of striking the fiars during the last twenty years, except in furnishing the jurors and witnesses with schedules, which was adopted perhaps ten or twelve years ago to save trouble and facilitate the business in court. Previous to this mode, each witness required to be examined, and an accurate account given of all his sales and purchases; after which, the averages on each species of grain required to be struck, which consumed a great deal of time. The mode, therefore, of furnishing schedules to the jurors and witnesses, three or four weeks previous to the day fixed for striking the fiars, is a manifest improvement.

Dunse, 2d July 1836. *James Bell*, Sheriff-clerk.

(No. 1.)

FIARS OF BERWICKSHIRE.

FOR the convenience of persons summoned to attend the court, for striking the fiars of Berwickshire, and for the purpose of affording more accurate information to the jury, it is deemed necessary that each person summoned should fill up and bring with him to court this schedule, containing a full and particular account of the dates, quantities, and prices of the corn and oatmeal of last crop, the produce of Berwickshire, sold or purchased by him previous to Candlemas, in this present year; the corn by the quarter of eight imperial bushels, and the oatmeal by the imperial stone weighing 14 pounds.

The date of each sale or purchase of corn, and the quantity, is required, with the price per quarter, at the above rate, set opposite thereto, and the average calculated and filled in. Under the title "Observations," seed corn may be put opposite to such parcels as are bought or sold for this purpose, together with any observations that may occur, such as the grain being damaged, where delivered, &c.

	DATE.		Price per Quarter.	Quantities.	Observations.
	Month.	Day.			
			£. s. d.		
Wheat sold - -					
	Average - - £.				
Wheat purchased -					
	Average - - £.				

Merse

569

	DATES. Month.	DATES. Day.	Price per Quarter.	Quantities.	Observations.
Merse Barley sold					
Average - - £.					
Merse Barley purchased -					
Average - - £.					
Merse Oats sold -					
Average - - £.					
Merse Oats purchased - -					
Average - - £.					
Peas sold -					
Average - - £.					
Peas purchased -					
Average - - £.					

Appendix, No. 26.

	DATE. Month.	DATE. Day.	Price per Quarter.	Quantities.	Observations.
Lammermuir Barley sold - -					
Average - - £.					
Lammermuir Barley purchased					
Average - - £.					
Lammermuir Oats sold - -					
Average - - £.					
Lammermuir Oats purchased -					
Average - - £.					
Rough Bere sold -					
Average - - £.					
Rough Bere purchased - -					
Average - - £.					

Oatmeal

571

	DATES. Month.	DATES. Day.	Price per Quarter.	Quantities.	Observations.
Oatmeal purchased per stone, weighing 14 standard pounds					
	Average - - £.				
Oatmeal sold per stone, weighing 14 standard pounds - - -					
	Average - - £.				

This is the Schedule referred to in my Deposition of this date.

Greenlaw, }
February, 18 } [Sign here.]

I, Sheriff officer, by authority of the Sheriff of Berwickshire and his substitute, lawfully summon, warn, and charge to appear before the said Sheriffs, or either of them, in a court to be held within the court house of Greenlaw, upon Thursday the day of February at 12 o'clock at noon; then and there to pass upon an assize for striking the fiars of the said county of Berwick for last crop, or to bear witness thereanent; and that, under the penalty of one hundred pounds Scots; and I hereby intimate the Sheriff's request, that, previous to the court day, you will fill up the prefixed schedule, by stating therein the quantities, dates, and prices of the corn and oatmeal, sold and purchased by you, of the foresaid crop, the produce of Berwickshire, previous to Candlemas, in this present year, adding thereto the average price per quarter of corn, and average price per stone of oatmea , and subscribing the same. This I do, this day of eighteen hundred and years.

Note.—In case you receive or pay rent according to fiars prices, you need not attend, but in that case must immediately write by post to the Procurator Fiscal at Dunse, so as another person may be in due time summoned in your stead.

(No. 2.)

PETITION of *John Johnston*, Procurator Fiscal for striking the Fiars at Greenlaw on the 25th day of February 1836.—Crop 1835.

Unto the Honourable the Sheriff of Berwickshire and his Substitute.

The PETITION of *John Johnston*, Procurator Fiscal of Court for the Public Interest.

Humbly Sheweth,

That by Act of Sederunt of the Lords of Council and Session of date 21 December 1723, "the Sheriffs of Scotland and their Deputies are appointed and required yearly to summon before them a competent number of persons living within the sheriffdom, who have knowledge and experience of the prices and trade of victual in their bounds, and from them to choose fifteen men, whereof not fewer than eight shall be heritors, to pass upon the inquest and return their verdict upon the evidence underwritten on their own proper knowledge concerning the fiars of the preceding crops of every kind of victual of the product of that sheriffdom; and the said Sheriffs and their Deputies shall at the same time and place into which the jury is called, also summon the properest witnesses and adduce them and all other good evidence before the said jury concerning the price at which the several

Appendix, No. 26.

several sorts of victual have been bought and sold," as the said Act of Sederunt, containing a detail of the forms necessary to be gone through for having the fiars accurately struck, in itself more fully bears.

That in order to have the price of the several kinds of victual of last crop, 1835, bought and sold previous to Candlemas, 1836, properly ascertained in terms of the said Act of Sederunt, and to insure the attendance of the jurymen and witnesses thereby required, the present application becomes necessary.

Praying that it may please your lordships to fix a day and place for striking the fiars of the county of Berwick for the crop 1835, and grant warrant for summoning the persons whose names are contained in a list herewith produced, to act either as jurymen or witnesses as may be thought necessary, and that under such penalty for non-attendance as to your lordships may seem proper.

According to justice, &c.

(signed) *John Johnston.*

15th January 1836.—The Sheriff-substitute appointed Thursday the twenty-fifth day of February next for striking the fiars of Berwickshire for crop eighteen hundred and thirty-five, and grants warrant for citing the persons in the list produced to appear within the Court-house of Greenlaw that day at eleven o'clock forenoon to act as jurors or witnesses, and that under the penalty of one hundred merks Scots.

(signed) *George Peat.*

(No. 3.)

LIST of Assize and Witnesses for striking the Fiars of *Berwickshire* at *Greenlaw* the 25th February 1836 :—Crop 1835.

[The words *Abbey, Ayton, Dunse, &c.* denote the different parishes within the county.]

Abbey :—Andrew Ronaldson, tenant of Abbey-mill.
Ayton :—Archibald Mickle, of Flemington.
Buncle :—John Murray, tenant of Marygold.
Chirnside :—Robert Blackadder, tenant of Ninewells Mains.
Cockburnspath :—Robert Chirnside, tenant of Fulford Lees.
Coldstream :—William Davidson, tenant, Darnchester Mains.
Phipps Turnbull, tenant of Crooks.
Channelkirk :—James Ceesford, tenant of Netherbower-house.
William Park, farmer, Parkfoot.
Dunse :—John Hunter, tenant of Wedderburn Mains.
Robert Luke, tenant of Ladywell.
Earlston :—George Cockburn, tenant of Fansloan-end.
John Dove, tenant of Fans West-end.
Eccles :—James Bird, tenant of Printonan-hill.
James Henderson, tenant of Hassington.
Andrew Waddel, tenant of Belmount.
James Low, residing at Earnslew.
Edrom :—John Carnegie, of New Edrom.
John Turnbull, Steward Kelloe.
Eyemouth :—Peter Ronaldson, tenant of Linthill.
Fogo :—Henry Rae, farmer, Fogo, East-end.
Foulden :—David Speirs, tenant of Greenlaw.
Gordon :—John Nisbet, tenant of Rumbleton.
Greenlaw :—Alexander Brodie, farmer, Gordon-bank.
Hume :—Alexander Logan, tenant of Hume-hall.
Hutton :—John Fish, tenant of Hutton-hall, Barns.
Ladykirk :—Peter Thomson, tenant of Homdean.
Langton :—Andrew Taylor, tenant of Redcleugh-head.
Longformacus :—James Thin, tenant of Smiddyhill.
Legerwood :—George Sheills, farmer, Birkhill-side Mill.
Lauder :—William Fletcher, tenant of St. Leonard's.
Charles Purves, tenant of Lylestone.
Mordington :—Alexander Thomson, tenant of Edrington Mains.
Nenthorn :—Andrew Robertson, tenant of Blinkbonny
Polwarth :—William Nisbet, tenant of Polwarth-roads.
Swinton :—Robert Hunter, tenant of Swinton-quarter.
Thomas White, farmer, Crawfoot-bank.
Whitsome :—James Trotter, tenant of Heritage.
Westruther :—James Black Steward, Spottiswoode.
George Watson, tenant, Harelaw.

(Copy.)

(Copy.) (No. 4.) Appendix, No. 26.

Motion for *John Johnston, P. F.* and Warrant thereon:—1836.

In respect the following persons refused or neglected to attend at Greenlaw to act as jurors or witnesses on striking the fiars of Berwickshire, upon Thursday the 25th of February last, although lawfully summoned to attend under your lordship's warrant, and as such example may be afterwards followed, so that in time it will be impossible to strike the fiars at all, he moves your lordships to inflict upon each of the defaulters the penalty of a hundred merks Scots.

Andrew Ronaldson, tenant of Abbey-mill.
George Cockburn, tenant, Fansloan-end.
John Carnegie, of New Edrom.
James Dickson Steward, Burnhall.
Thomas White, farmer, Crowfoot-bank.

In respect whereof,

(signed) *John Johnston.*

1st March 1836.—The Sheriff-substitute appoints a copy of this motion to be sent by post to each of the persons complained upon, and these persons to state, in an answer to be sent within six days, their reasons for non-attendance.

(signed) *George Peat.*

BUTESHIRE.

1. The fiars prices are struck under authority of the Act of Sederunt of the Lords of Council and Session in Scotland, dated 21st December 1723, entitled, "Act appointing the manner of striking the Sheriff Fiars."

2. The fiars prices were struck in the last ten years as follows; on 23d February 1827; 5th March 1828; 10th March 1829; 9th March 1830; 3d March 1831; 1st March 1832; 1st March 1833; 25th February 1834; 11th March 1835; 11th March 1836.

3. Persons within the shire who are deemed to have knowledge and experience of the prices and trade of victual, generally feuars or heritors, farmers, millers and shopkeepers, who deal in grain and meal, are summoned as jurymen. They are cited to appear by a Sheriff-officer, in virtue of a warrant of the Sheriff, under a penalty of a hundred merks Scots.

4. The same description of persons are summoned to give evidence before the Sheriff and jury in a similar manner, and under a like penalty. They are examined on oath in presence of each other; but the evidence is not recorded, as the jury make up their verdict from notes taken by them of the evidence adduced in court before them.

5. No exact account has been kept of the quantity of the several kinds of grain, meal and peas and beans included in the fiars prices during any of the last ten years. The grain and other articles must be the "growth and produce" of the country. The whole grain, &c., regarding which the jury and witnesses can speak or give evidence about, is included, whether the same has been bought or sold within the county or elsewhere. When sold without the county, the expense of carrying out and selling it is deducted. In no instance is grain &c., not the produce of the county included, nor is any foreign produce ever taken into account.

6. The personal knowledge of the jury is taken along with the evidence as the foundation on which the fiars are struck.

7. No division of the same kind of grain into different classes has hitherto been made in this county.

8. The only alteration made in the mode of striking the fiars within the last twenty years is, that previous to 1827 the Sheriff was in use to summon to appear before him a number of farmers and others competent to give evidence as to the prices of grain and oatmeal of the preceding crop, and from their evidence, without the assistance of a jury, to fix the fiars prices of grain and oatmeal for the crop to which the inquiry applied; but yearly since that time the directions contained in the Act of Sederunt above mentioned have been strictly followed by summoning and impannelling a jury of fifteen persons to ascertain and fix the yearly fiars prices by a verdict given in by them to the Sheriff in court, founded on the evidence adduced before them on the subject joined with their own proper knowledge.

Arch. Macneill,
Rothesay, 31st May 1836. Sheriff-clerk of Buteshire.

Appendix, No. 26.

CLACKMANNANSHIRE.

1. The fiars are struck under the authority of the Act of Sederunt of the Lords of Council and Session, dated 21st December 1723.

2. In terms of that Act, they are struck betwixt the 4th and 20th of February.

3. By the Act of Sederunt, not fewer than eight of the jurymen should be heritors, but there being very few resident heritors in this county, the jurymen in general are composed of merchants, manufacturers, distillers, farmers and other respectable inhabitants, who are summoned, to the number of forty-five, by a Sheriff's officer, upon a precept issued by the Sheriff, each person under the penalty of ten pounds Scots, and of these fifteen are chosen for the jury; but every person who has bought or sold by the fiars of that year, or who receives or pays rent by the fiars, is excluded from being a juryman.

4. The persons summoned to give evidence before the Sheriff and the jury, consist of corn-dealers, maltsters, brewers, millers and other dealers and manufacturers of grain, who are summoned in virtue of the Sheriff's precept to appear, under the penalty of ten pounds Scots, and are all examined on oath.

5. The kinds of grain and meal included in the fiars prices during each of the last ten years, are as follows;—

Wheat,	White Kerse Oats,
Kerse Barley,	Dryfield Oats,
Dryfield Barley,	Black Oats,
Muirland Barley,	Peas and Beans,
Oatmeal,	Malt.

all of the growth and produce of the county *only*, no foreign grain or grain the produce of other counties being admitted. Previous to the Act for establishing the Uniformity of Weights and Measures, the fiars prices were struck by the boll, but since the year 1826 they have been struck by the imperial quarter. There being no weekly markets in Clackmannanshire, the whole of the grain sold within the county could not be ascertained, and of course could not be included in the fiars; but the verdict of the jury is formed on the evidence of the prices at which the respective quantities of grain were bought and sold by the witnesses examined.

6. The jurymen being all sworn, it has always been considered as law in this county, that the personal knowledge of any of the jury might be held as evidence and taken into account by the jury in forming the verdict.

7. The different classes into which the same kind of grain is divided have already been stated; and the principle on which the division is made, is the difference of quality of Kerse, Dryfield and Muirland land.

8. No alteration has been made in the mode of striking the fiars during the last twenty years.

Robert Jameson.

EDINBURGHSHIRE.

1. The fiars prices of grain of the county of Edinburgh are struck under authority of the Act of Sederunt of the Lords of Council and Session, 21st December 1723, "declaring and appointing the manner of striking the Sheriff's Fiars."

2. The period of the year at which the fiars of this county have been struck, has for a very long series of years been on a day early in the month of March, running from the 3d to the 10th of that month.

3. The list of persons summoned as jurymen is composed of twenty-four heritors, nine brewers, six bakers and six meal-dealers; out of which number the Sheriff names eight heritors, three brewers, two bakers, and two meal-dealers to pass upon the jury. They are summoned in virtue of a precept or warrant, by the Sheriff; and the citation served upon them requires their attendance at the time and place specified in the citation, under a certification that if they fail to attend they will be fined in 5 *l.* sterling.

4. About the middle of February in each year an advertisement is inserted in the Edinburgh newspapers, intimating that the fiars prices of grain of the county are to be struck on a day named, and desiring farmers or others who have made sales or purchases of all or any of the different kinds of grain, the growth of the county, last crop, to lodge with the Sheriff-clerk, on or before a certain intermediate day, the names of persons who have made such sales or purchases, that they may be cited as witnesses. The persons whose names are given in to the Sheriff-clerk in consequence of this advertisement, with others who are thought likely to be best qualified to give information, are accordingly cited to appear at the same time and place as the jury; and to the citation given to the witnesses a schedule is subjoined pointing out the different points on which they are to be examined. [A copy of this schedule is herewith transmitted.]

The list of persons thus cited as witnesses is laid before the jury named by the Sheriff, and such of the witnesses in attendance as are thought from the sales or purchases they may have made, and the kind and quantities of grain they may have sold or bought, to be best qualified to give evidence as to the fiars prices, are called and examined before the Sheriff and the jury. The witnesses are examined upon oath, and each witness is specially examined on the different sales or purchases made by him, as set forth in the schedule; and if it appears to the jury that from any particular circumstance any part of the grain in the schedule has been sold

or

or bought at a higher or lower rate than the fair ordinary market price at the time of the sale, such sale or purchase is struck out of the schedule, so that it may not be taken into account in striking the average.

5. The grain must be all of the growth of the county and no grain not the growth of the county is taken into the calculation in striking the fiars; of course, no foreign grain is included.

A note is hereto subjoined of the quantities of the several kinds of grain taken into account, in calculating the fiars prices in this county, during each of the last two years.

In order to prevent any injustice being done to any part of the county, on account of the grain in some parts being better or bearing a higher price than in others, the county is considered as being divided into three different districts, a low district, a middle district, and a high district; and the jury in general examine the same number of witnesses from each district.

It is impracticable to obtain evidence or returns of the whole of the grain the growth of the county, sold within the county; and, therefore, in calculating the fiars prices, the mode adopted has, in general, been to average the prices of each witness's grain by the number of sales made by him without regard to the quantities in each sale; and after the average of each witness's prices has been found, according to the number of sales or purchases made by him, the average prices of different witnesses are thrown together, and the amount divided by the number of witnesses.

If evidence could be got as to the prices of the whole grain sold or bought, the growth of the county, it might be proper to take the quantities into the calculation in striking the averages. It is next to impossible, however, to get such evidence, and whatever the quantity may be, if it has been bought or sold at the fair market price of the day, (and this is a question for the consideration of the jury,) such sale or purchase fixes the fair and true prices of that day. If the quantities were taken into consideration, the sale or purchase of a large quantity at any one time when the prices happen to be either at a high or low rate, might have the effect to increase or decrease the average prices in an unfair degree.

6. The jury, who by the Act of Sederunt are supposed to be men of skill and experience, are entitled to consider all good grounds and arguments which may weigh with them in establishing the just fiars prices; and accordingly in this county, when it appeared to the jury that there was a want or deficiency of evidence as to oatmeal, from the evidence of the witnesses examined, on account of the difficulty of ascertaining whether the oats from which meal had been manufactured, were or were not the growth of the county (a very small proportion only of the meal sold in the markets within this county being manufactured from oats the growth of the county), they have sometimes, from their own knowledge and experience, and after taking into consideration the fiars prices for oats and how oats of that crop had mealed, fixed the fiars prices of oatmeal at what they considered a fair fiars price.

7. Having fixed the fiars prices of the best qualities of the different kinds of grain, no calculation is in general made as to the price of the 2d or 3d qualities, which are comparatively of less moment. The practice has been, that after ascertaining the highest fiars prices, the jury, from the evidence led, and after taking all circumstances into consideration, fix the prices of the 2d wheat and 2d and 3d barley. The prices for these inferior qualities of grain are fixed according to circumstances, particularly the nature of the season, as in a bad season the difference betwixt the prices of the best grain and grain of an inferior quality is much greater than in a good or ordinary season.

8. No alteration has been made in the mode of striking the fiars of this county within the last twenty years.

James Wilson, Sheriff-clerk.

21st June 1836.

Note of the Quantities of the several kinds of Grain included in striking the Fiars Prices in each of the last Two Years referred to in the foregoing Return;—

	WHEAT.		BARLEY.		OATS.		OATMEAL.	PEAS & BEANS.	
	Qrs.	*Bus.*	*Qrs.*	*Bus.*	*Qrs.*	*Bus.*	*Bolls.*	*Qrs.*	*Bus.*
Crop, 1834 -	537	1	1480	6	1379	7	21	25	1
„ 1835 -	423	1	1114	5	933	5	None.	73	2

James Wilson.

Appendix, No. 26.

I, Sheriff-officer, lawfully summon you to compear before the Sheriff-depute of Edinburgh, or his substitutes, within the Sheriff-clerk's office, Edinburgh, upon the the day of March at the hour of eleven o'clock forenoon, in order to make oath, in as far as you know and shall be asked you, respecting the prices of victual of the growth of the shire of Edinburgh, last crop, before the inquest for cognoscing upon the fiars; and you are required to bring with you a signed list of such prices, to which you can make oath, specifying, 1st, The quantities bought and sold by you from the 11th day of November last to the said day of striking the fiars, with the date of each purchase or sale. 2d, From whom bought and to whom sold. 3d, The prices of the best, second and third; under the first of which heads you will insert all the grain of the best quality, whatever may have been its price, and the same with the second and third. 4th, The weight per bushel; and you will keep out what has been bought or sold for seed corn. This I do upon the day of

Note.—You will fill up the above different particulars in the columns below, and preserve and bring this with you, to be exhibited before the jury.

Dates of Purchase or Sale.	Kinds of Grain.	Number of Bushels.	Bought or Sold.	From whom Bought or Sold.	Price per Imperial Quarter.	Weight per Quarter.
	Best Wheat -					
	Second ditto -					
	Best Barley -					
	Second ditto -					
	Third ditto -					
	Best Oats -					
	Second ditto -					
	Oatmeal - -					
	Peas & Beans					

ELGINSHIRE.

1. Immemorial practice, regulated by an Act of Sederunt of the Lords of Council and Session, dated 21st December 1723.

2. Upon the 22d day of February each year, for the crop of the preceding year.

3. The above Act of Sederunt requires that fifteen jurors shall be chosen, whereof not fewer than eight shall be heritors, which is here always acted on; the others are respectable farmers, or persons supposed to be versant in agricultural matters, and are cited under a warrant of the Sheriff to appear, under a penalty of 100 merks Scots each.

4. The witnesses are the corn-merchants of the district, the distillers, brewers, and most extensive farmers and meal-dealers, who are examined on oath in reference to their transactions, and are cited in the same manner and under the like penalty as the jurors.

5. The grains included are, wheat, barley, oats, peas, beans and rye, with oatmeal, all the growth of the county; and no grain from any other quarter has ever been taken into account in fixing the averages. The whole quantity bought or sold from the preceding harvest by each witness is in the evidence. The quantities given in evidence for the last two crops are as under.

Crop 1834: Wheat, 5,246 quarters; barley, 9,158 quarters; oats, 4,231 quarters; oatmeal, 396 cwts.; rye, 40 quarters; peas and beans, 30 quarters.

Crop 1835: Wheat, 3,637 quarters; barley, 5,415 quarters; oats, 924 quarters; oatmeal, 530 cwts.; rye, 4 quarters; peas and beans, 14 quarters.

6. The Act of Sederunt quoted, allows the private knowledge of the jury to be taken into account in making up their verdict; but for the last seven years their verdict has been returned, upon accurate calculations made from the prices and quantities given in evidence; and the private knowledge of the jury, if to be founded on, has been by the Sheriff required to be stated in open court, and included in the evidence, before the jury retired. This rule has been found to give the proceedings greater weight and authority, from nothing taking place except under the eye of those interested.

7. In this county it has always been the practice to strike only an average of each kind of grain. How different classes of the same grain are made up, therefore, is here unknown.

8. No alteration has taken place in the mode of striking the fiars within the last twenty years, with the exception, that there is no allowance given to the private knowledge of the jury, except that knowledge proceeds from actual transactions, as explained under Query 6.

Elgin, 1st June 1836. *Arthur Duff*, Sheriff-clerk.

FIFESHIRE.

1. The fiars are annually struck under authority of an Act of Sederunt of the Court of Session in Scotland, dated 21st December 1723, intituled, "Act declaring and appointing the manner of striking the Sheriff Fiars."

2. The fiars for the county of Fife have been annually struck on the last Thursday of the month of February, new style; and that day has been observed for a very long period of years.

3. & 4. These Queries are so connected together, that, in order to answer them correctly, the clerk (must enter) must enter into the following explanation:

For the purpose of summoning the jury and witnesses for striking the Sheriff Fiars of Fife, a precept or warrant is issued by the Sheriff, a copy of which, for summoning assizes and witnesses for last crop, is herewith sent; and which is the form which has been used for a very long period of years, and from which it will appear that the number of jurymen summoned is forty-five. It will likewise appear, by the designations of the jurors in the precept, what is their qualification, and that they consist of about one-half landed proprietors, and the other half tenants or lessees of property; and the said precept likewise explains the manner of summoning the jury and witnesses, and the mode adopted for enforcing their attendance, which is, according to ancient custom, under the penalty of ten pounds Scots. It will likewise be shown by the precept the qualification and occupation of persons summoned to give evidence to the Sheriff and jury. These generally consist of from forty to fifty persons of the qualification and occupation before described, which it will be observed consist of corn-merchants, maltsters, millers, bakers, brewers, meal-dealers, managers of meal societies and bread societies, and also such known brokers as purchase in Fife for their employers residing in Forfar and Mid Lothian. The precept will also explain the purpose for which the jury are summoned, and, in further explanation, a copy of the citation accompanies this; and there likewise accompanies this a copy of the citation and schedule delivered to each witness summoned. These citations are delivered by a Sheriff-officer to the several jurymen and witnesses personally, or at their respective dwelling-places, ten or fifteen days previous to the day fixed by the Sheriff for holding his court for striking the fiars.

The Sheriff-clerk further explains, that upon the day which the Sheriff appoints, he holds his court at twelve o'clock, noon, when the names of the jurymen are called over, and such of them as do not appear are subjected in the before-mentioned fine, unless, upon production of a regular certificate from a medical person that they are unable to attend, or some other competent evidence, that circumstances have occurred to prevent them attending. The Sheriff then selects, as directed by the Act of Sederunt, eight landed proprietors and seven tenants or occupiers of land, who take their places on the jury bences, and are sworn by the Sheriff to return a verdict according to the evidence to be laid before them.

This being done, the witnesses are called over, and such of them as do not appear are dealt with the same as absent jurors, and they are then put into a separate room, and called in one by one to be examined, to each of whom the Sheriff administers an oath that they will tell the truth and nothing but the truth, so far as respects the prices of grain and meal. The witness then delivers the schedule annexed to his citation, containing the quantities and prices of grain or meal bought or sold by him, which he depones to be true; and, if necessary, he is examined by the Sheriff and jury upon any questions that may occur to them, and particularly by the Sheriff, whether or not the grain reported in his schedule is good, wholesome, marketable grain and the growth and produce of the county, and whether or not the schedule contains the whole grain and meal bought and sold by him within the county; and whether or not any foreign produce is included in the same.

5. Part of this Query is noticed in the preceding Answer; and it is necessary further to explain: As each witness is examined, the clerk and most of the jurymen take down the quantities specified in the schedule and sworn to by the witnesses; and there is never included by the witnesses, or taken down by the jury, any grain or meal which is not the produce of the county.

Appendix, No. 26.

When the whole witnesses are examined the Sheriff retires, and the jury are enclosed along with the Sheriff-clerk.

They then proceed to compare the quantities and prices taken down by the clerk with those taken down by the jurymen, and should any discrepancy appear, the schedule is resorted to for explanation.

6. It has not been the custom for several years back to resort to the personal knowledge of the jurymen as the foundation on which the fiars are struck, except as to red wheat, and bere, commonly called bigg, of which it is difficult to get a proof, from the small quantities of these grains that are grown; but the quantities deponed to by the witnesses are taken down by the clerk and jury, and the jury judge from their own knowledge what ought to be the fiars prices of these kinds of grain. The Sheriff-clerk of Fife, who has now attended at the striking of the fiars for half a century, is humbly of opinion, that if any difficulty occurred on these occasions as to the evidence given on the prices, the jury would be most competent judges, as they consist of intelligent proprietors and farmers well acquainted with the purchase and sale of grain; and they are specially authorized by the before-mentioned Act of Sederunt to act from their own knowledge.

7. In this county the fiars prices of the same kind of grain is not divided into different classes. The principle on which the fiars of each kind of grain is struck, is from the total quantity purchased by the witnesses and the total price paid, the witnesses upholding the whole quantities deponed to as marketable and wholesome grain.

8. There has been no alteration made in the mode of striking the fiars for the last twenty years.

After the whole procedure has been gone through, and the prices taken down and exactly adjusted with the evidence adduced, the fiars are struck upon the average of the quantities and prices sworn to; and for explaining this fully, there is herewith sent, as a specimen, a schedule, containing the exact quantities and prices deponed to by the several witnesses at the last instance of striking the fiars for crop 1835; and to which is annexed the total quantities and prices sworn to and taken down for crop 1834.

The jury having thus ascertained the exact fiars for the year, make up their verdict; a copy of which for the last year is as follows:

Fiars of the Sheriffdom of *Fife*, Crop and Year Eighteen Hundred and Thirty-five.

Made up in presence of Andrew Jameson, esq., Sheriff-substitute of Fifeshire, sitting in judgment in a court of the said sheriffdom, held within the Sheriff court room at Cupar, upon Thursday, the twenty-fifth day of February one thousand eight hundred and thirty-six years, by the inquest under-written, all lawfully summoned for that purpose, and sworn by the said Sheriff, after probation taken before them of the several prices of grain from the separation of the crop from the ground.

Inquest:

Charles Maitland Christie, of Durie.	James Buist, tetant, Kirktonbarns.
James Hunt, of Pittencrieff.	Robert Ballingal, tenant, Treaton.
James Cheape, of Balgove.	Alexander Beveridge, tenant, Buckthorn.
Taylor Cathcart, of Pitcairly.	James Kinninmont, tenant, Innertiel.
William Rolland, of Burnside.	Andrew Aitken, tenant, Cambee.
Bethune James Walker, of Fawfield.	Robert Watt, tenant, Bennochy.
David Millie, of Balhousie.	William White, tenant, Ballintager.
James Balfour, of Ashgrove.	

The above-named persons of inquest having made choice of the said Charles Maitland Christie to be their chancellor, and having considered the proof adduced before them, as well by witnesses as by their own proper knowledge of the several prices of grain; find the same to average as follows:

White wheat, - one pound nine shillings and sixpence three farthings.
Red wheat, - - one pound seven shillings and sixpence three farthings.
Barley, - - - one pound two shillings and fourpence halfpenny.
Bere, - - - - one pound one shilling.
Oats, - - - - eighteen shillings and eightpence halfpenny.
Meal by weight, per load of 280 imperial pounds, one pound eleven shillings and ninepence three farthings.
Meal by measure, one pound nine shillings and ninepence three farthings.
Peas and beans, one pound five shillings and fivepence halfpenny.
Rye, - - - - one pound two shillings and sixpence farthing.
Malt, - - - - two pounds five shillings and sixpence halfpenny.

Imperial quarters. All sterling money.

Signed, in name of the inquest, by

(signed) *C. M. Christie*, Chr.

To which the Sheriff-substitute interpones his authority,

(signed) *And. Jameson.*

The verdict being thus made up, the Sheriff is sent for, and the verdict is delivered to him in court by the chancellor of the jury, and to which he, according to custom, interpones his authority; and the same is engrossed in the record of the Sheriff Court of Fife as evidence for all concerned, and from which certified extracts are given by the clerk to any person who may require the same.

Thos Horsbrugh, Sheriff-clerk.

Cupar, 8th June 1836.

579

Appendix, No. 26.

Sir, Cupar, 8th June, 1836.

I HAVE received the order of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on Agriculture, dated 18th May 1836, that a Return be made, showing the manner in which the fiars prices are struck in each of the counties in Scotland. In obedience to which, I now transmit you a Return showing the manner in which the fiars are struck for the county of Fife, with the following documents referred to in that Return, viz:—

1. Copy Precept for summoning Assizers and Witnesses for striking the Sheriff Fiars of Fife; crop 1835.
2. Copy Citation to Jurymen for that purpose.
3. Copy Citation and Schedule to Witnesses.
4. Abstract of the Evidence adduced at the last instance of striking the Fiars, and also for Crop 1834.

The return I hope you will find accurate and satisfactory, and embracing all the objects specified in the order of the Select Committee.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Thos. Horsbrugh*, Sheriff-clerk of Fifeshire.

Charles Shaw Lefevre, Esq.

PRECEPT for summoning ASSIZERS and WITNESSES for striking the Sheriff Fiars of Fife; Crop 1835.

Andrew Jameson, Esq., Sheriff-substitute of the shire of Fife, to mairs and officers of the said shire conjunctly and severally specially constituted: It is my will, and I charge you, that incontinent this my precept seen, ye pass, and in his Majesty's name and authority, and mine, lawfully summon, warn and charge

Sir Ralph Abercrombie, Anstruther of Balcaskie,
Sir George Campbell, of Edenwood,
Charles Maitland Christie, of Durie,
James Hunt, of Pittencrieff,
William Robert Keith Douglas, of Denins,
William Berry, of Tayfield,
James Cheape, of Balgove,
James Wyld, of Gilston,
Taylor Cathcart, of Pitcairly,
Major Charles Christie, of Findas,
Captain Frederick Wedderburn, Yr., of Wedderburn,
David Millie, of Balhousie,
John Hay, of Morton,
James Stenhouse, of North Fod,
Alexander Meldrum, of Easter Rincaple,
Bethune James Walker, of Fawfield,
William Rolland, of Burnside,
James Balfour, of Ash Grove,
Major Boyd Horsbrugh, of Lochmalony,
William Ferguson, of Kibrie,
Robert Meldrum, of Pittormie,
John Millar Bowman, of Logie,
Henry Beveridge, of Inzievar,
John Pitcairn, of Kinnaird,
Alexander Ireland, of Bannity,
James Buist, tenant in Kirktonbarns,
Robert Ballingal, tenant in Treaton,
Alexander Beveridge, tenant, Buckthorns,
James Clark, tenant in Wormiston,
Robert Watt, tenant in Bennochy,
George Lewis, tenant, Boglilly,
James Kinninmont, tenant, Innertia
John Dowie, tenant in Primrose,
Gavin Mitchell, tenant in Otterstone,
John Fraser, tenant, Westmill, Strathmiglo,
Robert Duncan, tenant in Caiplie,
Robert Walker, tenant in Higham,
William White, tenant in Ballintager,
James Crawford, tenant in Balbougie,
James Low, tenant in Murdocairnie,
David Aitken, tenant in Torbain,
James Kilgour, tenant, Pitlochie,
James Davidson, tenant, Bankhead,
Petar Ballingal, tenant in Aytown, and
Andrew Aitken, tenant in Carnbee,

personally, or at their respective dwelling-places, to compear before the Sheriff of Fife, or his substitute, in a court, to be held within the Sheriff court room, at Cupar, upon Thursday, the twenty-fifth day of February instant, in the hour of cause, to pass as persons of inquest, for striking the fiars of victual, for crop and year Eighteen hundred and thirty-five, each person under the penalty of ten pounds Scots money: and sicklike that ye, in name and authority foresaid, summon, warn and charge

David Thomson, corn merchant, Newburgh,
William Guild, corn merchant, Newburgh,
John Bonthron, maltster, Auchtermuchty,
Alexander Bonthron, distiller there,
Andrew Wilson, Corston Mill, Strathmiglo,
George Swan, Bannity Mill there,
John Mitchell, baker, Cupar,
Thomas Watson, miller, Daftmill,
George Mackay, miller, Cupar Mills,
George Nicol, corn merchant, Newburgh,
Alexander Rhind, corn merchant, Woodhaven,
James Wilson, corn merchant, Newport,
James Graham, corn merchant, Elie,
Alexander Nicolson, corn merchant, Cabbagehall,
Rae Ireland, brewer, St. Andrews,
Thomas Smith, baker, St. Andrews,
David Berwick, brewer, St. Andrews,
Andrew Henderson, tenant, Cairnsmill,
John Rodger, tenant, Blebomill,
Alexander Adamson, tenant, Moongrimill,
James Pride, miller, Dairsie Mill,
John Mitchell, tenant, Garpet Mill,
Andrew Mackie, brewer, St. Monance,
John Keddie, baker, Ferryport on Craig,
John Swayne, maltster, Elie,
John Clark, corn merchant, Wormiston,
Robert Hutchison, corn merchant, Kirkaldy,
George Prentice, Kirkaldy,
Thomas Thomson, corn merchant, Kirkaldy,

Appendix, No. 26.

—— Henderson, meal-dealer, Links, Kirkaldy,
William Young, of Dunearn, distiller, Burntisland,
John Haiq, distiller, Cameron Bridge,
Thomas Spears, distiller, Kirkaldy,
William Dick, manager of meal society, Links of Abbotshall,
William Hutchison, baker, Kirkaldy,
George Blyth, Cardon Mill,
James Miller, manager of old bread society, Links of Abbotshall,
David Stocks, miller, Cameron Mills,
John Kinninmont, baker, Kirkaldy,
Alexander Smith, clerk at Inverkeithing distillery,
Laurence Gibson, meal-seller, Dunfermline,
William Wilson, brewer, Brucehaven,
Robert Mitchell, tenant, of Backmarch, North Queensferry, and
David Imrie, Haughmill,

personally, or at their respective dwelling-places, to compear, day and place foresaid, to bear leal and soothfast, witnessing in so far as they know, or shall be asked at them, anent the prices of grain crop foresaid, each person under the penalty of ten pounds Scots money; and this in noways ye leave undone, which to do, I commit to you conjunctly and severally, as said is full power by this my precept: given at Cupar, the eighth day of February, Eighteen hundred and thirty-six years, 1836.

(signed) *And. Jameson.*

No. 2.—Copy of CITATION to Jurymen for Sheriff Fiars of *Fife*.

I, Sheriffmair of the Shire of Fife, by virtue of a precept from the Sheriff-substitute of Fife, dated the day of do hereby lawfully summon, warn and charge you to compear before the Sheriff of Fife, or his Substitute, in a Court to be held within the Sheriff Court Room at Cupar, upon the day in the hour of cause, to pass as a person of inquest, for striking the fiars of victual for crop and year eighteen hundred and thirty under the penalty of ten pounds Scots. This I do this day of , eighteen hundred thirty years.

No. 3.—Copy of CITATION and SCHEDULE to Witnesses.

I, Sheriffmair, by virtue of the Sheriff-substitute of Fife his precept, dated the day of February instant, lawfully summon, warn and charge you to compear before the Sheriff of Fife or his substitute, in a Court to be held within the Sheriff Court Room at Cupar, upon the day of February instant, in the hour of cause, to bear leal and soothfast witnessing, in so far as you know or shall be asked at, anent the prices of grain, crop eighteen hundred and : and you will bring with you a note of the quantities and prices of grain bought and sold by you since the separation of the last crop from the ground, conform to the annexed Schedule, under the penalty of ten pounds Scots. This I do, this day of February, eighteen hundred and before these witnesses.

QUANTITIES of GRAIN of CROP 1835, bought by Messrs. *John Haig and Co.* from the Separation of that Crop from the Ground.

WHITE WHEAT.			RED WHEAT.			BARLEY.			BERE.			OATS.			MEAL BY WEIGHT.			PEAS AND BEANS.			RYE.		
Number of Quarters.	Price per Quarter.	Total Price.	Number of Quarters.	Price per Quarter.	Total Price.	Number of Quarters.	Price per Quarter.	Total Price.	Number of Quarters.	Price per Quarter.	Total Price.	Number of Quarters.	Price per Quarter.	Total Price.	Number of Quarters.	Price per Quarter.	Total Price.	Number of Quarters.	Price per Quarter.	Total Price.	Number of Quarters.	Price per Quarter.	Total Price.
	s. d.	£. *s. d.*		*s. d.*	£. *s. d.*		*s. d.*	£. *s. d.*		*s. d.*	£. *s. d.*		*s. d.*	£. *s. d.*		*s. d.*	£. *s. d.*		*s. d.*	£. *s. d.*		*s. d.*	£. *s. d.*
12	21 5	12 17 –	– –	– –	– – –	8⅜	30 –	12 11 3															
5¼	– –	7 10 –	– –	– –	– – –	15	28 6	21 7 6															
24	28 –	33 12 –	– –	– –	– – –	96⅝	28 –	135 5 6															
5⅜	28 –	7 10 6	– –	– –	– – –	53⅜	27 6	73 14 8															
10	27 –	13 10 –	– –	– –	– – –	64⅛	27 –	86 11 4															
5	22 –	5 10 –	– –	– –	– – –	58⅞	26 6	78 – 2															
5½	22 –	6 1 –	– –	– –	– – –	40½	26 –	52 13 –															
10	25 –	12 10 –	– –	– –	– – –	118½	25 6	151 1 9															
6½	26 –	8 9 –	– –	– –	– – –	145⅛	25 –	181 8 1															
						127⅝	24 6	156 6 10															
						199	24 –	238 16 –															
						53⅛	23 6	62 8 5															
						348⅞	23 –	401 4 2															
						88⅛	22 6	99 2 9															
						156⅝	22 –	172 5 9															
						79½	21 6	85 9 3															
						121	21 –	127 1 –															
						11	20 6	11 5 6															
						102⅜	20 –	102 7 6															
						18	19 6	17 11 –															
						60⅝	19 –	57 11 11															
						20¼	18 –	18 4 6															
						17⅞	17 6	15 12 10															
						78½	29 –	113 16 6															
Totals of Quantities and Prices of each kind of Grain –						2,083¼		2,471 17 2															
	Averᵉ Price,					1,767	Averᵉ Price,	2,076 12 3															
83⅜	25 8½	107 9 6				3,850¼	23 7½	4,548 9 5															

Specimen of the Note, Quantities and Prices to be furnished by each Witness cited for Examination at striking the Fiars for the County of Fife.

Suppose	10 quarters	of wheat bought or sold	at 58*s.* 6*d.* per quarter,	£.29 5 –
	20 do.	do.	at 60*s.* 6*d.* per do.	60 10 –
	30 do.	do.	at 62*s.* per do.	93 – –
TOTAL QUANTITY - -	60		TOTAL PRICE - -	£.182 15 –

Note.—A specimen is prefixed for your information, of the Note, Quantities and Prices, which you will bring with you, and which you will be called upon to verify upon oath before the jury, and which of course applies to all kinds of grain. No average of prices is necessary, and you will take notice that you are merely required to mention accurately, under each head of the above schedule, the number of quarters of each kind of grain bought or sold by you of last year's crop, and the prices you paid or received for each; and to add at the bottom of each column the total quantity and the total price of each kind of grain, as in the specimen. It is likewise absolutely necessary, in case you have made bargains according to the old measure, that you be prepared to state to the Sheriff and jury, the price of the grain bought or sold by you, agreeably to the new legal imperial measure, by the quarter, which you can be at no loss to do, as Tables for converting this are to be had in every bookseller's shop.

John Haig.

(Copy No. 4.)—ABSTRACT of Evidence adduced at the last instance of striking the Sheriff Fiars of *Fife* for Crop 1835; and also the Total Quantities and Prices for Crop 1834.—8 June 1836.

No.	Witnesses.	White Wheat.		Barley.		Oats.		Meal by Weight.		Peas and Beans.		Rye.	
		Quarters.	Total Price.	Quarters.	Total Price.	Quarters.	Total Price.	Loads of 280 I. lbs.	Total Price.	Quarters.	Total Price.	Quarters.	Total Price.
			£. s. d.		£. s. d.		£. s. d.		£. s. d.		£. s. d.		£. s. d.
1	Mr. William Guild -	10	14 – –	4,350	4,782 17 4	70	61 17 3	- -	- - -	138	173 7 6	—	—
2	Mr. John Haig - -	83 5/8	107 9 6	3,850 2/8	4,548 9 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3	Mr. Thomson - -	57	93 1 –	618	791 – 3	50	56 10 –	—	—	—	—	—	—
4	Mr. Alexander Smith -	53 5/8	64 1 9	6,008 6/8	6,990 12 –	648 4/8	650 5 11	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	Mr. Hutchison - -	772 7/8	1,066 1 –	22,861 3/8	25,289 11 10	3,073	2,747 2 3	- -	- - -	1,656 1/8	2,059 8 8	786 3/8	887 5 –
6	Mr. Reddie - -	79 4/8	149 9 6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7	Mr. Alexander Bonthron	25	46 5 –	375	422 3 9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8	Mr. James Wilson -	105 1/8	133 3 11	1,916 6/8	2,098 18 7	- -	- - -	- -	- - -	- -	- - -	237 2/8	267 7 5
9	Mr. Rhind - -	186	315 17 6	1,712	1,903 – –	- -	- - -	- -	- - -	233	293 5 4	—	—
10	Mr. Andrew Wilson -	19 4/8	36 13 6	48	54 10 6	474	451 11 6	239	396 4 –	12	15 11 9	—	—
11	Mr. George Swan -	119 4/8	213 3 6	40	46 5 0	- -	- - -	86	143 4 –	—	—	—	—
12	Mr. Grahame - -	- -	- - -	1,191 7/8	1,391 15 2	449 4/8	459 19 1	- -	- - -	179 3/8	237 19 7	—	—
13	Mr. A. Nicolson - -	756 3/8	977 9 3	5,213 4/8	5,799 15 6	552 2/8	512 18 4	- -	- - -	704 6/8	937 11 –	—	—
14	Mr. Rae Ireland - -	108	180 3 6	317	409 11 6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	Mr. Thomas Smith -	84	137 3 3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16	Mr. David Stocks -	- -	- - -	229	257 12 –	64	58 16 –	20	33 – –	26	30 18 –	—	—
17	Mr. Thomas Spears -	355	468 6 9	3,137	3,472 14 1	476	438 19 8	—	—	—	—	—	—
18	Mr. William Dick -	8 3/8	15 18 1	14 4/8	15 4 6	498	498 10 4 1/2	119	182 4 4 1/2	6 2/8	8 3 6 1/2	—	—
19	Mr. William Wilson -	- -	- - -	116	138 19 –1/2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	Mr. David Imrie - -	26	46 7 –	40	50 – –	621 5/8	564 1 7	404	586 16 –	37	44 14 –	—	—
21	Mr. James Miller -	75 1/8	139 16 –	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
22	Mr. Prentice - -	549 2/8	794 9 –	6,286 3/8	6,911 9 4	1,121 7/8	1,002 6 5	- -	- - -	231 5/8	303 13 9	—	—
23	Mr. John Rodger -	5 4/8	8 11 –	4 4/8	4 5 6	116	116 18 –	110	176 4 2	4	4 16 –	—	—
24	Mr. John Mitchell -	480 7/8	857 10 4 1/2	321 5/8	401 10 7 1/4	64	68 3 9	- -	- - -	6	6 12 –	—	—
25	Mr. George M'Kay -	47	61 8 –	49	52 4 –	928	905 9 10	- -	- - -	15	19 7 –	—	—
26	Mr. Alex. Adamson -	19 4/8	34 17 6	27 4/8	28 13 –	294 5/8	290 8 5	263	431 2 8	16 4/8	22 8 –	—	—
27	Mr. James Pryde -	12 4/8	17 10 –	39 7/8	43 1 –	457 2/8	467 11 3 3/4	277 3/8	470 12 1 1/2	28	36 18 –	—	—
28	Mr. George Nicol -	75 1/8	95 10 3	3,595 3/8	3,859 17 11	210 1/8	182 19 8 1/2	- -	- - -	70 4/8	85 16 –	177 7/8	198 7 10
29	Mr. Bonthron - -	131	198 2 –	1,902	2,126 4 6	280	258 5 –	- -	- - -	29	37 10 –	—	—
30	Mr. Thomas Watson -	12 4/8	21 19 –	- -	- - -	85	65 10 –	44	65 14 –	9	12 12 –	—	—
	Total - -	4,257 7/8	6,294 7 1 1/2	64,264 2/8	71,910 6 3	10,533 6/8	9,858 4 4 3/4	1,562 3/8	2,485 1 4	3,402 1/8	4,330 11 1 1/2	1,201 4/8	1,353 – 3
			1 9 6 3/4		1 2 4 1/2		– 18 8 1/2		1 11 9 3/4		1 5 5 1/2		1 2 6 1/4
	Total Quantities and Prices:—Crop 1834	4,048 1/8	7,923 14 –1/2	56,837 6/8	72,378 17 1	16,131 1/8	16,425 8 –	1,810 7/8	2,687 2 6	3,756	5,129 3 2 1/2	1,071 5/8	1,379 3 3

FORFARSHIRE.

1. Under the authority of the Sheriff, as directed by Act of Sederunt of the Lords of Council and Session, dated 21st December 1723.

2. From sales and purchases made between the 1st day of November preceding and the date of striking the fiars, which date is between the 4th and 20th days of February (old style) each year, as directed by the said Act of Sederunt.

3. The only qualification of jurymen is, that not fewer than eight of the fifteen persons of whom the jury is formed, are heritors. They are summoned by virtue of a precept from the Sheriff to attend, under a penalty of 100 merks Scots each, which penalty, when incurred, is levied under an Exchequer writ and paid into Exchequer. This is the only power exercised for enforcing their attendance.

4. The freeholders, justices of peace, and commissioners of supply of the county, at their Michaelmas Head Court, held 1st October 1816, passed the following resolutions; viz.—

"Resolved in general meeting, upon receiving a report from the committee appointed by the general meeting of the county, on the 30th of April last, to inquire into the manner in which the fiars prices of grain had usually been struck in this county, and to consider the fairest and best way to ascertain the medium prices of the different of kinds of grain:

"1st. That an equal proportion of the witnesses ought to be summoned from the different districts of the county; viz., from the eastern, western, coastside and middle of the county, from Strathmore and the Braes.

"2d. That no farmer be summoned who does not occupy seventy acres of arable land.

"3d. That the schoolmasters of the different parishes be directed to send, as early as possible, to the Sheriff-clerk's office in Forfar, the tenants' names who are eligible in their respective parishes.

"4th. That at least three tenants in every district be summoned to attend at the striking of the fiars, to be employed as jurymen, or to give evidence to the jury.

"5th. That the principal corn-dealers in the county be summoned to attend, and that they be requested to have prepared a general total of the quantity, with the medium of the prices of each kind of grain they have previously purchased of that year's crop, which they are to deliver upon oath to the jury, exclusive of any other information which may be required by the jury.

"6th. That a principal baker and brewer from each royal burgh be summoned to attend.

"7th. That three principal millers and distillers in the county be summoned to attend.

"8th. That the fiars prices shall be struck, not on the average of the number of sales by different witnesses, but on the average of the number of bolls sold. It is understood that the evidence to be given upon the sales of any kind of grain shall apply only to sales for legal purposes, and thus secure strict attention to the fair interest of all concerned."

Which rules have ever since said date (1st October 1816) been observed in this county. The witnesses are summoned in the same manner, and their attendance is enforced by the same power as already answered in regard to jurymen, Query 3d. The witnesses are examined upon oath.

5. The following are the quantities of each kind of grain and oatmeal given in evidence, on which the fiars prices were struck:

Crops.	——	Wheat.	Barley.	Chester Bere.	Potato Oats.	Common Oats.	Peas and Beans.	Rye.	Oatmeal.
1826	Bolls	5,856	2,0754	220	1,368	36	355	No evidence, & no verdict returned.	1,149
	Quarters	1,611	—	—	—	—	—		—
1827	Bolls	4,830	19,311	326	9,042	390	3,876	No evidence, & no verdict returned.	5,785
	Quarters	2,565	6,599	—	749	—	773		—
1828	Bolls	4,339	19,464	444	29,432	4,049	3,706	20	12,348
	Quarters	1,932	14,721	58	5,044	903	548	22	—
1829	Bolls	203	1,702	37	5,835	560	5	No evidence, & no verdict returned.	17,382
	Quarters	5,367	26,330	550	9,110	1,130	2,857		—
1830	Bolls		1,379	4	1,379	116	7	—	13,139
	Quarters	6,630	48,047	563	24,690	4,354	1,927	61	—
1831	Quarters	4,472	58,683	901	15,415	1,434	1,783	36	Bolls. 11,218
1832	Quarters	3,153	58,748	355	11,105	725	2,641	205	Bolls. 13,046
1833	Quarters	2,629	53,216	473	15,972	2,476	2,327	41	Bolls. 9,530
1834	Quarters	2,878	53,184	395	22,583	2,241	3,263	22	Bolls. 10,368
1835	Quarters	3,694	85,455	325	11,510	675	3,329	57	Bolls. 11,116

All which grain and oatmeal were sworn to be the growth and produce of the county. The whole of the grain sold within the county is not included in the above, but only the

Appendix, No. 26.

quantities sold or purchased by the respective witnesses within the period stated in answer to the Query No. 1. No grain not the produce of the county is included in the above quantities.

6. In this county the evidence of the witnesses is taken as the sole datum of the verdict of the jury.

7. Only one fiars price of the same kind of grain struck in the county of Forfar.

8. In this county there has been no such alteration.

Forfar, 6 June 1836. *Patrick Orr*, Sheriff-clerk.

HADDINGTONSHIRE.

1. The fiars prices of grain for the county of Haddington are, it is believed, struck in a manner peculiar to the said county, and the authority for the continuance of this peculiarity is immemorial usage, sanctioned by a special judgment of the Court of Session, applicable to the mode of striking the fiars in Haddingtonshire, of date 10th December 1771, in the case of Knoo *v.* Law, and others.

2. The fiars are generally declared upon the first Thursday of March annually, and the averages ascertained are those of grain of a particular crop or year, sold between the reaping thereof and the second last Friday in February thereafter. On a few occasions the fiars have been ascertained and struck a week earlier.

3, 4 & 6. These queries are not applicable to the county of Haddington, no jury being employed; but in answer thereto, the following detail of the manner of striking the fiars for the said county is humbly reported.

On the beginning of February, annually, a list of from eighty to one hundred of the principal farmers in the county who sell grain within the same for ready money, is prepared by the Sheriff-clerk, and revised by the Sheriff or his substitute, care being taken to select a proper proportion from each district. A warrant is then granted to officers of court to summon the persons enumerated in the list to appear before the Sheriff on the last Friday of February, being market day, then to depone upon the quantities, kinds and prices of grain sold by them respectively of the last reaped crop, and requiring them to lodge with the Sheriff-clerk on the Friday previous a note of the sales made by them, including that day's sales, under a penalty of ten shillings. The said persons being summoned by an officer of court, and the notes of the sales being lodged with the Sheriff-clerk, each return is copied over in the form of a deposition, and upon the day of compearance, the Sheriff, sitting in his ordinary court, administers an oath to each seller appearing, to the effect that the note of sales which is read over to him is true, that the grain sold was by imperial measure, all raised within the county, of the particular crop for which the fiars are about to be ascertained, and all delivered within the county for the prices stated. From the evidence in the depositions, states are prepared by the Sheriff-clerk, showing the particular quantities or number of quarters sold by each person at each price, (omitting fractional parts of a quarter,) the total quantities sold at each price by all who depone, the amount or value of each total quantity sold at one price, the gross amount of the quantities or quarters sold, and the gross price thereof. An average is thereafter struck, by dividing the gross price by the number of quarters, the result being the price of one quarter. This produces the general medium, to which an addition of 2½ per cent. thereon is made, to form the average or second fiars for the particular kind of grain under calculation. The notes of sales, depositions and calculations are preserved by the Sheriff-clerk, and a separate record is kept, showing the several fiars prices for each year. This latter record exists from the year 1627. After the fiars are declared in court, upon the first Thursday in March, extracts are issued by the Sheriff-clerk to those requiring them.

5. The following are the quantities and kinds of grain which were included in 1835 for calculating the fiars of crop 1834.

	Imperial Quarters.
Quantity of Wheat	3,774
„ Barley	1,430
„ Oats	2,628
„ Peas	142

In 1836, for calculating the fiars of crop 1835:

Quantity of Wheat	2,843
„ Barley	2,003
„ Oats	2,553
„ Peas	101

The grain must be the growth and produce of the county. Only a portion of the grain sold within the county is included; all the grain sold upon credit, sold for seed, grey corn and that not delivered within the county being excluded; and besides, all the grain sold in markets out of the county is excluded; and, a selection only of sellers being made, a portion of the grain sold within the county must necessarily be also excluded from the calculations In no instance is grain not the produce of the county, or foreign grain included, in striking the fiars for Haddingtonshire. No fiars of meal or other articles are struck.

7. The fiars of each kind of grain are divided into three classes, in manner following: The general medium price, exclusive of the addition of 2½ per cent., being ascertained, the gross value of the grain sold above that price is divided by the total number of quarters also

also sold above it. The result, with an addition of 2 ½ per cent., forms the first or highest fiars. The general medium ascertained in manner before stated, with the addition of 2 ½ per cent., forms the second or medium fiars. The gross value of the grain sold below the general medium is divided by the total number of quarters also sold below it. The result, with an addition of 2 ½ per cent., forms the third or lowest fiars.

8. No alteration has been made in the mode of ascertaining the fiars of the county of Haddington for the last twenty years.

Henry M. Davidson, Sheriff-clerk.

INVERNESS-SHIRE.

1. No answer.

2. In the last week of February annually.

3. The jurymen summoned are persons upon the roll of special or general jurors, (made up in terms of Statute 6 Geo. iii. cap. 22,) resident in the vicinity of the town of Inverness.

The jury is summoned by a precept or warrant issued by the clerk of court, under the authority of the Sheriff, which precept serves as the warrant for an officer of court to cite each individual juror and witness.

In the event of a juror who has been thus duly cited failing to attend, the Sheriff is entitled to fine and emerciate him for non-attendance, in the sum of 100 merks Scots, or 5*l*. 11*s*. 6*d*. sterling.

4. Proprietors of lands, factors for proprietors, practical farmers, corn-dealers, distillers, millers and bakers, meal merchants.

The same precept or warrant under which the jury is summoned, is in like manner served upon each individual witness.

I am not aware that the Sheriff has any power to enforce the attendance of witnesses. Witnesses are invariably examined upon oath.

5. Grain and meal have been valued according to the following quantities and descriptions.

1. Common or white oatmeal by the old boll of 9 stones, weighing 1 cwt. 1 qr. 17 lbs. 8 oz.
2. Common white oats per quarter.
   Ditto with fodder.
3. Potato or Hopetown oats.
   Ditto with fodder.
4. Barley per quarter.
   Ditto with fodder.
5. Wheat per quarter.
   Ditto with fodder.
6. Black oats per quarter.
   Ditto with fodder.
7. Black oatmeal per boll.
8. Bere or bigg per quarter.
   Ditto with fodder.
9. Peas per quarter.
   Ditto with fodder.

The fiars prices are struck according to an average of the prices of grain being the growth and produce of the county, and bought and sold within the same. No evidence is led as to transactions concerning foreign produce.

The fiars prices are struck according to an average of the prices of the whole of the grain sold within the county, in so far as the result of these sales can be ascertained by the evidence of the witnesses adduced and examined.

6. The personal knowledge of the jury is not unfrequently taken as evidence, or to eke out evidence of value; the jurors being in that case examined upon oath as witnesses.

7. Reference is made to Answer No. 5, as to the manner in which the same kinds of grain are divided into different classes.

The average of the current prices of the county is taken as the principle for fixing the value of each kind and class of grain.

8. There has been no alteration in the principle or practice of striking the fiars prices in this county within the last twenty years, in so far as appears from the record.

KINCARDINESHIRE.

1. The fiars prices in this county are struck by the Sheriff, in virtue of the Act of Sederunt, 21st December 1723.

2. The period in each year when the fiars prices are fixed, is between the 4th and 20th days of February, old style, or between the 17th February and 6th March, new style, as required by said Act of Sederunt.

3. There is no qualification of the jurymen, unless what is required by the Act of Sederunt. Eight heritors or landholders of the county, at least, have hitherto been summoned on each fiars court; but they seldom all attend. Those who are absent send letters to the Sheriff, stating the cause of their absence.

The jurymen are summoned by a Sheriff-officer, in virtue of a precept from the Sheriff, addressed to his officers, containing an order to summon the persons therein named, to appear before the Sheriff of the county, in a court to be holden by him, within the court room at Stonehaven, on the day fixed by the Sheriff, and at a certain hour, to pass on an inquest for striking the fiars and prices of victual for the county, for the crop specified, with certification that those absent will be fined in terms of law.

Appendix, No. 26.

4. The persons summoned to give evidence relative to the prices of victual in this shire, are corn-dealers and grain-merchants; and from those districts where the grain is sold to grain-merchants not resident in the county, and consequently, not subject to the Sheriff's jurisdiction, a few of the farmers are summoned to give evidence as to their own individual sales or purchases.

The manner of summoning the witnesses and enforcing their attendance, is the same as that for the jury.

The witnesses are all examined in the personal presence of the jury, on oath.

5. The price of the grain given in evidence, is that which has been either bought or sold for ready money, and the value of the whole is ascertained by an arithmetical process.

The several kinds of grain included in the fiars prices of the county for the last ten years, are, common white oats, potato oats, bere or bigg, peas, barley, wheat and beans, with and without straw or fodder.

The only other commodity included in the fiars prices, is oatmeal.

The inquiry and the evidence are strictly limited to the grain the growth or produce of the county.

It would be impossible to collect evidence of the sales of the whole grain the growth of the county; the evidence, therefore, relates to that portion of the grain given in evidence, which is generally such as to give a fair and just representation of the sales of all the grain sold, the growth of the different districts of the county.

The whole quantity of the several kinds of grain given in evidence during each of the ten preceding years has been various. In March 1827, the whole quantity given in evidence for ascertaining the fiars prices of the crop of 1826, did not exceed 3,000 quarters. The whole quantity for each of the subsequent nine years varied from 10,000 quarters to 25,000 quarters.

6. The personal knowledge of the jury has not for some years past been taken into account, unless given in open court before the jury retire to make up their verdict; with the exception of the article of straw or fodder, of the value of which it is extremely difficult to get satisfactory evidence in this county of *bonâ fide* sales for ready money.

The jury, therefore, in fixing the value of this article, are guided in a great measure by their own knowledge.

7. The same kind of grain, as will be observed, is not divided into classes in striking the fiars prices in this county, unless in the articles of oats, and bere or barley; and in these cases the common white oats and the potato oats are so distinctly marked, that the difference in value is known and recognised in every market in the kingdom. The same remark applies in a great degree to bere and barley.

8. The jury do now, certainly, return their verdict upon the evidence that has been adduced before them; formerly, I believe, they were more guided by their own knowledge and judgment of the article. It may also be stated, to account for the great difference in quantity of grain given in evidence, that of late years the grain-merchants residing in towns not within the Sheriff's jurisdiction, but frequenting the grain-markets which are attended by the farmers of this county for selling their grain, do now attend the fiars court on the citation from the Sheriff, and give evidence of their purchases of grain the growth of the county.

Formerly, as there were few of the grain-merchants resident within the county, and those resident without it declining the jurisdiction of the Sheriff, the witnesses examined were farmers from the different districts of the county, and their individual sales amounted to small quantities in comparison. In this particular, something also depends on the quantity of grain sold, previous to the day of the fiars court.

William Stewart, Sheriff-clerk, Kincardineshire.

KINROSS-SHIRE.

1. The fiars are struck under the authority of the Sheriff of the county.

2. The fiars are struck in the beginning of March each year, betwixt the first and tenth days of that month.

3. No particular qualification on the part of the whole jurymen has been considered necessary, except intelligence and education, but one-third of the number at least have been Commissioners of Supply. The others have been selected by the Sheriff from every class of men in the county. The jurors are summoned by a Sheriff-officer, under a precept issued by the Sheriff-clerk, and a penalty of ten pounds Scots is imposed if attendance is not given.

4. Those summoned to give evidence are distillers, brewers, mill-masters, and grain and meal-dealers; in short, all who are known to deal in meal or grain, but no other qualification is considered necessary. They are summoned by a Sheriff-officer, under a precept issued by the Sheriff-clerk, and their attendance enforced under the same penalty of ten pounds Scots. The witnesses are examined on oath.

5. If, by the expression "quantity and several kinds of grain and meal, and other articles included in the fiars prices," the quantity deponed to by the witnesses as having been bought and sold, is meant (which the Sheriff-clerk understands to be the case); it is impossible to state that quantity, because the evidence is not preserved. The evidence is restricted to the growth of the county. It is impossible to have the whole of the grain sold in the county included, as there are many small sales made to private individuals of which

which the Sheriff cannot be informed; it is, however, believed that a great proportion of it is included. Grain not the produce of the county, and foreign grain, are strictly excluded.

6. The personal knowledge of the jury has in some instances been used to temper the evidence, when it was evident that the general average given by the evidence was too high or too low, and it may have been used where the evidence was deficient, but very seldom.

7. Where there are two classes of the same kind of grain, such as best barley and second barley, the average of the whole evidence as to that kind of grain is first ascertained and a small sum is added to that average to obtain the best, and deducted from it to obtain the second; the witnesses having been interrogated as to the weight and quality of the different lots of grain, with a view to inform the jury on this point. The amount of the prices of the whole sales of grain deponed to by the witnesses is calculated and divided by the number of bolls to obtain the average, not one boll of each lot.

8. No alteration appears to have been made in the mode of striking the fiars within the last twenty years.

Peter Macgill,
Sheriff-clerk.

Kinross, 28th May 1836.

KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

1. The Act of Sederunt of the Court of Session of 21st December 1723, and Act 4 and 5 Gul. IV. cap. 49. sect. 15.

2. The dates are given in the state at No. 5.

3. Eight heritors or proprietors; seven tenants. By a summons or warrant from the Stewart, under a penalty of 53*l.* Scots; but no instance of this penalty having been exacted so far as the present clerk, who has been in office for thirty years, recollects, the persons summoned seldom, or rather, never failing to attend without sending an excuse satisfactory to the Stewart.

4. The witnesses are grain and meal-dealers; they are summoned as the jurors under a similar penalty; and the same observation applies to them as to the jurors. They are always examined on oath.

5. The following is the Answer to Query 5.

Crops and Years.	When Fiars Prices are Struck.	Wheat.	Barley.	Potato Oats.	Common Oats.	Bere.	Rye.	Oatmeal.	Observations.
		Win. Bush.	*Win. Bush.*	*Win. Bush.*	*Win. Bush.*	*Win. Bush.*	*Win. Bush.*	*Stones Troy.*	To convert Winchester bushels into imperial bushels, multiply Winchester bushels by ·969472.
1826	1827: Feb. 27	4,474	7,792·75	5,906·50	1,024	18	None	1,075	
		Imp. Bush.	*Imp. Bush.*	*Imp. Bush.*	*Imp. Bush.*	*Imp. Bush.*	*Imp. Bush.*	*St. of 16 lbs. Imp.*	A stone Troy is 16 Troy pounds or 17½ imperial pounds.
1827	1828: Feb. 29	3071·75	27,771	49,845	6,487	187	None	22,282·75	
								St. of 14 lbs. Imp.	An imperial quarter is eight imperial bushels.
1828	1829: Feb. 27	11,022	21,727	70,791	5,865	346	54	16,176·25	
1829	1830: Feb. 26	12,609	26,089	46,964	4,650	94	None	9,600	
1830	1831: Mar. 4	10,400	18,204	39,622	5,969	None	None	10,219	
1831	1832: Mar. 2	22,032	48,018	69,486	10,575	89	None	8,825	
1832	1833: Mar. 1	17,876	38,283	64,134	2,625	48	None	25,391·25	
1833	1834: Feb. 28	14,503	48,880	69,515	7,027	59	26	15,478.75	
		Imp. Qrs.	*Imp. Qrs.*	*Imp. Qrs.*	*Imp. Qrs.*	*Imp. Qrs.*	*Imp. Qrs.*		
1834	1835: Feb. 27	780·625	6,898·50	10,160·25	1,097·50	7·25	None	17,453	
1835	1836: Mar. 4	2,810·75	7,126·875	8,760·425	1,201·375	None	None	18,509	

The grain must be the growth and produce of the stewartry. The whole of the grain sold in the stewartry is not included, because each witness swears only to his own transactions, and it would be next to impossible to search out for witnesses to depone to the whole transactions of the stewartry. A list of proposed witnesses is put up on the wall of the clerk's office some weeks before the day fixed for striking the fiars. Notice is given in at least two newspapers, and the public are requested to call, examine the list, and give information as to any other witnesses. The whole grain in the witnesses' transactions is included. No grain not the produce of the stewartry is included.

6. The whole grain of each kind in the proof is summed up, and the whole prices paid or received for it are summed up, and the average on the whole amount of the grain and prices is ascertained by dividing the whole price by the total quantity; the jury then take the whole of the evidence, and these calculations, as also their own personal knowledge, into consideration, and then fix the fiars prices. The latter part of the verdict of the jury is thus: "And which prices the jury do, from the evidence adduced and their own knowledge, hereby determine to be the fiars prices of the grain and oatmeal before mentioned, &c.

Appendix, No. 26.

7. There is only one fiars price of grain struck in the stewartry.

8. The only alterations made within the last ten years in striking the fiars appear in answer to Query 5. For the ten years preceding 1826, the fiars were struck the same as in that year.

David Melville.

Steward-clerk's office,
Kirkcudbright, 6th June 1836.

LANARKSHIRE.

1. Under authority of an Act of Sederunt of the Court of Session, dated 21st of December 1723.

2. Betwixt the 4th and 20th of February (old style), *i. e.* betwixt the 15th of February and 3d of March (new style).

3. Heritors and tenants of land and merchants selected as the most respectable and intelligent in the district, summoned by virtue of a precept issued in name of the Sheriff, under a penalty of twenty pounds Scots each juror; fifteen chosen by the Sheriff, or Sheriff-substitute (who sits as presiding judge), out of the whole number summoned, form the jury; not fewer than eight of the said fifteen being heritors.

4. Farmers, meal-dealers, bakers and innkeepers, the persons most in the practice of buying and selling grain, also summoned by virtue of the Sheriff's precept, under a penalty of twenty pounds Scots each witness. The witnesses are always examined upon oath.

5. The quantities and kinds of grain and meal and other articles, included in the fiars prices during each of the last ten years, are detailed in the separate paper which accompanies this Return. The grain sworn to is always the produce of the county: only a portion of each species of grain is included; no grain not the produce of the county, nor any foreign grain ever included.

6. The jury may make use of their personal knowledge in striking the fiars prices.

7. The first and second rates, and third, whenever such is fixed, are taken from the evidence; each witness is asked whether the grain, to the price of which he swears, was of the best quality; these opinions are by no means to be depended upon, as a farmer hardly ever admits that his grain was not of the best quality; and many men whose farms are in high situations consider their grain as really of first quality, when it only happens to be the best produced upon their bleak farms.

8. No alteration has been made in the mode of striking the fiars in this county within the last twenty years. In the year 1817 the Sheriff-depute issued special instructions for giving more perfect obedience to the Act of Sederunt of 1723. A copy of these instructions is transcribed upon the separate paper which accompanies this Return.

A. P. Waterson,
Sheriff-clerk Depute.

Detailed Account of Quantities and Kinds of Grain, referred to in the Return for *Lanarkshire*, as to mode of striking the Fiars prices:—1836.

Crop 1826.	No. of Bolls.
Wheat, best sort	566
Barley, best sort	594
„ second sort	111½
Bere, best sort	105
„ second sort	6
Oats, best sort (seed excepted)	111
„ second sort	35
Oatmeal, best sort (according to weight)	895
Peas, best sort	44
Crop 1827.	
Wheat, best sort	389
„ second sort	79
Barley, best sort	947
„ second sort	95
Bere, best sort	114
Oats, best sort (seed excepted)	1,111
„ second sort	20
Oatmeal, best sort (according to weight)	783
„ second sort	51
Peas, best sort	12

Crop 1828.	No. of Bolls.
Wheat, best sort	399
Barley, best sort	3,296½
Bere, best sort	625
Oats, best sort (seed excepted)	1,050
" second sort	714
Oatmeal, best sort (according to weight)	1,621
„ second sort	52
Peas, best sort	38
Crop 1829.	
Wheat, best sort	455
„ second sort	17
Barley, best sort	1,946
„ second sort	258
Bere, best sort	249
Oats, best sort (seed excepted)	579
„ second sort	192
Oatmeal, best sort (according to weight)	345
„ second sort	193
Peas, best sort	40
„ second sort	20
Malt, best sort	80

Crop

Appendix, No. 26.

Crop 1830.	No. of Bolls.
Wheat, best sort	229
„ second sort	233
Barley, best sort	499
„ second sort	155
Bere, best sort	54
„ second sort	10
Oats, best sort (seed excepted)	31
„ second sort	10
Oatmeal, best sort (according to weight)	425
Peas, best sort	8
„ second sort	6
Beans, best sort	40

Crop 1831.	
Wheat, best sort	155
„ second sort	99
Barley, best sort	1,103
Bere, best sort	459
Oats, best sort (seed excepted)	208
„ second sort	83
Oatmeal, best sort (according to weight)	694
Peas, best sort	117
Malt, best sort	18
Beans, best sort	20

Crop 1832.	
Wheat, best sort	672
„ second sort	111
Barley, best sort	1,050
„ second sort	310
Bere, best sort	226
„ second sort	41
Oats, best sort (seed excepted)	422
Oatmeal, best sort (according to weight)	938
„ second sort	38
Peas, best sort	40
Beans, best sort	16

Crop 1833.	
Wheat, best sort	1,187
„ second sort	326
Barley, best sort	444
„ second sort	175
Bere, best sort	145
„ second sort	130
Oats, best sort (seed excepted)	169
Oatmeal, best sort (according to weight)	1,268
„ second sort	10
Peas, best sort	35
Malt, best sort	200
Beans, best sort	5

Crop 1834.	
Wheat, best sort	526
„ second sort	59
Barley, best sort	336
„ second sort	26
Bere, best sort	280
Oats, best sort (seed excepted)	185
„ second sort	112
Oatmeal, best sort (according to weight)	2,386
Peas, best sort	6
Beans, best sort	10
„ second sort	12
Malt, best sort	10

Crop 1835.	
Wheat, best sort	576
„ second sort	424
Barley, best sort	1,273
„ second sort	645
Bere, best sort	63
„ second sort	80
Oats, best sort (seed excepted)	106
„ second sort	100
Oatmeal, best sort (according to weight)	1,501
„ second sort	44
Peas, best sort	58
Beans, best sort	28

What is contained above is the detailed account of the quantities and kinds of grain included in the fiars prices for Lanarkshire for the last ten years, referred to in the answer to Query 5th, in the order of the Committee.

(certified by) *A. T. Waterson,*
Sheriff-clerk Depute.

(Copy, Letter.) The Sheriff to the Sheriff-clerk of Lanarkshire.

Dear Sir, Edinburgh, 12 Dec. 1817.

As announced in my last letter, I now send you my scheme and instructions for the fiars of this approaching year. I enclose a list of parishes in the different wards, by which you will see I propose to cite twelve from the different local situations in the Upper Ward, thirteen in like manner from the Middle, and eight from the Lower Ward, in all thirty-three. The three public officers in each ward will accordingly meet forthwith, and exert themselves by inquiries at neutral persons and otherwise to find out the most proper witnesses, either in the parishes or conjoined districts put down in the table, or observing that rule as nearly and strictly as possible. The three public officers to whom this is entrusted are, the Sheriff-substitute, the Sheriff-clerk and the Procurator Fiscal of each ward respectively, who, from their official situation and character, will accordingly conduct themselves with impartiality and be swayed by no one. In selecting and making up the list, then, for each ward, these officers will also fix upon the most respectable dealers, either *buyers* or *sellers*, and notify to them, either before or when they are cited, that they will be called to give evidence of the prices at which the different kinds of victual of the growth of the shire and of this last year's crop have been bought or sold by them, chiefly from the 1st of November to the 17th of February, the day intended for the meeting at Lanark; and you will advertise the meeting a reasonable time before in two of the Glasgow papers; you will also summon twenty-five jurymen from the Upper and Middle Wards as heretofore, thirteen of these to be good, decent

Appendix, No. 26.

decent and *bonâ fide* heritors, and the other twelve to be farmers, merchants, or other fit persons. The above is accordingly all that at this stage seems necessary to attend to; the rest will be adjusted at the meeting, and the provisions of the Act of Sederunt, as held out in the reasons of dissent, followed up; you will be pleased therefore to communicate the above instructions as from me to the Sheriff-substitutes in the Upper and Middle Wards, and, in concurrence with the Sheriff-substitute and Fiscal, attend to and follow them out in the Lower Ward.

And I remain, &c.

(Addressed) John Drysdale, Esq.
Sheriff-clerk of Lanarkshire.

(signed) *R. Hamilton.*

What is contained above is a copy of the instructions issued by the Sheriff in 1817, referred to in the answer to Query 8 in the order of the Committee.

(certified by) *A. T. Waterson,*
Sheriff-clerk Depute.

NAIRNSHIRE.

1. Act of Sederunt of the Lords of Council and Session, dated 21st December 1723.

2. Generally on the 22d day of February, or first lawful day thereafter; but always between 15th February and 5th March.

3. The Sheriff annually makes up a list of the persons living within the sheriffdom who are supposed to have best "knowledge and experience of the prices and trade of victual" within the county, who are summoned in manner after mentioned. So far as possible, the terms of the Act of Sederunt before mentioned are complied with, by putting "not fewer than eight heritors upon the jury," the deficiency of heritors and the remaining number to make up fifteen (the number always composing the jury) being selected from the most intelligent merchants, farmers, tradesmen and independent gentlemen in the county. For summoning the jury a writ is issued in name of the Sheriff and signed by the clerk of court, containing authority to the officers of court to summon the persons named in a list annexed to the writ, in virtue of which a regular citation is served upon each individual to appear at the time and place mentioned in the warrant, under a penalty of 10*l.* Scots. No instance of failing to attend without a sufficient excuse, and no instance of inconvenience from non-attendance has occurred, so far as is known, in this county; but it is understood that the Sheriff can grant warrant for levying the penalty before mentioned against the persons refusing to attend.

4. (1.) A list of witnesses is made up by the Sheriff as before mentioned from the most extensive farmers, meal and corn-dealers, managers of farms or others dealing in grain within the county, who are summoned under the same warrant, in the same manner and under the same penalty as the jurymen are, and the same power of enforcing attendance applies to witnesses, with the further compulsitor that the Sheriff would grant warrant for apprehending and bringing forward witnesses refusing to attend. (2.) All the witnesses who are examined give their evidence upon oath.

5. (1.) The quantity and several kinds of grain and meal included in the evidence on which the fiars were struck during the year 1834 (prices struck 23d February 1835) were as follows; viz. wheat, 111 qrs.; barley, 164 qrs.; oats, 445 qrs.; oats with fodder, 45 qrs.; barley with fodder, none; oatmeal, 14 tons 7 cwts.; and during the year 1835 (prices struck on 22d February 1836), wheat, 68 qrs.; barley, 178 qrs.; oats, 258 qrs.; oats with fodder, 62 qrs.; barley with fodder, 16 qrs.; oatmeal, 4 tons 14 cwts. The number of witnesses examined in 1835 were 15, and of those in 1836, 20. (2.) The whole grain, the growth of and sold within the county by the witnesses examined, is included in striking the fiars; but there must be a good deal of each description of grain specified sold within the county by persons not examined. (4.) Grain not the produce of the county is scrupulously excluded from the evidence, and in no instance is foreign produce admitted. The grain transactions of the county generally comprehend small quantities.

6. The jury, who are regularly sworn, have by said Act of Sederunt a right and do couple their own knowledge with the evidence of the witnesses in ascertaining the prices.

7. In this county the fiars prices are only struck on one class of each kind of grain, &c.

8. For the last five years the practice of recording at length the evidence of the witnesses has been resumed; for several years past the quantities of each kind of grain sold or bought are taken into account, as well as the prices at which the same are sold; striking the prices of peas, beans and rye has been discontinued for the last five years, in consequence of these sorts of grain being now little used in the county. Since 1830 the prices have been struck by the imperial standard measures and weights only. The Sheriff has taken means, by personal inquiry at the gentlemen summoned and otherwise, for preventing persons paying rents or having existing bargains according to the fiars prices to be struck from being admitted as jurymen or witnesses.

Robt. Malcolm,
Sheriff-clerk Depute.

Nairn, 16th June 1836.

ORKNEY AND SHETLAND.

1. The fiars prices in Orkney are struck under authority of Acts of Sederunt, of the Court of Session in Scotland of 21st of December 1723, and 14th November 1816.

2. The fiars prices are struck in Orkney, in virtue of the Act of Sederunt, 14th November, 1816, the investigation into them being directed to take place between the 10th and 20th May, and the Sheriff required to give his sentence on or before the first day of June in each year.

3. To strike the fiars an assize of forty-five persons is summoned under authority of a precept of the Sheriff, under a penalty of ten pounds Scots, each assizer; and out of these forty-five fifteen are chosen by the Sheriff, five of whom are, under Act of Sederunt of November 1816, required to be heritors or landholders in the county. I do not know that there is any other qualification requisite in forming the inquest, but in practice, the principal landholders, their factors, and others of unquestionable respectability and integrity, versant in agricultural and commercial transactions, compose the assize of forty-five, out of whom the fifteen jurymen composing the inquest are chosen. There are always more than five heritors on the jury, which is a picked one by the Sheriff, and decidedly the highest in point of qualification in every respect, that is summoned in Orkney, and in which the interests of those concerned in a high and low rate of the fiars are endeavoured to be balanced as nearly as may be by the presiding judge.

4. I do not know of any particular qualification or occupation of a person summoned to give evidence, farther than that he has bought or sold a certain quantity of grain, malt, or meal of the crop of which the fiars are to be struck. The witness is summoned in virtue of the Sheriff's precept or warrant, under a like penalty with the juryman of 10 *l.* Scots, examined on oath, and his evidence reduced to writing, *verbatim*, which enables the jury to calculate the average to a fractional part, if need be.

5. No foreign produce or grain not the produce of the county, has been included in the fiars prices during any of the last ten years. The whole of the grain sold within the county has not been included, but witnesses have been summoned as to all transactions in grain, malt, or meal in the county, that the Sheriff-clerk could ascertain had taken place prior to the period of summoning the inquest. There are no public markets in Orkney. The Sheriff-clerk ascertains from dealers in grain, and others connected with agricultural matters, who have been buyers and sellers; and public notices are posted up, and sent to persons interested, *hinc inde*, such as the factor of the King's donator in the earldom, and the proprietors, or factors of proprietors paying the greatest amount of feu duties yearly, requesting information as to the persons best qualified to detail the most extensive dealings, from actual transactions in grain, the produce of the crop that may be in question. On the day appointed in the Sheriff's precept, the jury of fifteen from the forty-five summoned, is chosen and sworn in, and the evidence of the witnesses, till then unknown, is brought forward, and reduced to writing at length. On the Sheriff and the jury being satisfied with the sufficiency of the evidence adduced, with respect both to amount and extent of transactions in the different kinds of grain, &c., the Sheriff remits the evidence and proceedings of inquest to the jury for their consideration, and in order to their striking the average, which always proceeds upon careful and accurate arithmetical calculation on the date given in evidence. After being charged by the presiding judge, they are enclosed, when they adjust their verdict, finding the fiars prices for the year, to which the Sheriff interpones his authority, or thereon pronounces an interlocutor decerning in terms of the verdict. Only a portion of the grain sold in the county, of the crop which is in question, is included in the fiars. The quantities of each of the last ten years are as follow:—

	1826.	1827.	1828.	1829.	1830.	1831.	1832.	1833.	1834.	1835.
Malt - - -	*Miels.* 549	*Miels.* 179	*Miels.* 342	*Miels.* 381½	*Miels.* 337	*Miels.* 345	*Miels.* 150½	*Miels.* 131	*Miels.* 72	*Miels.* 62½
Oatmeal from White Oats	*Bolls.* 44	*Bolls.*	*Bolls.*	*Bolls.* 6	*Bolls.* 24	*Bolls.* 107	*Bolls.* 19	*Bolls.* 74	*Bolls.* 36	*Bolls.* 66
Black Oatmeal	*Bolls.* 940½	*Bolls.* 994½	*Bolls.* 245½	*Bolls.* 232½	*Bolls.* 876	*Bolls.* 239	*Bolls.* 177	*Bolls.* 194	*Bolls.* 215½	*Bolls.* 259
Bere, Raw and Ingled - - -	*Miels.* 788	*Miels.* 2,784	*Miels.* 2,605½	*Miels.* 1,577½	*Miels.* 2,561½	*Miels.* 2,052	*Miels.* 1,373	*Miels.* 1,571½	*Bolls.* 1,519½	*Qrs. Impl.* 1,580

6. The personal knowledge of a juryman is taken as a foundation on which the fiars are struck; but when such evidence is taken into account, it is always reduced to writing, under the direction of the presiding judge, before the jury is enclosed.

7. In Orkney, the fiars are struck of malt, bere or bigg, and of meal made from black oats; in one or two instances, of meal made from white oats; an average price being struck of each manufacture and species of grain without any division into classes.

Appendix, No. 26.

8. The time for striking the fiars in Orkney was changed by Act of Sederunt of 14th of November 1816, from the month of February to the month of May, and the number of heritors required to be on the inquest, reduced from eight to five. By the two late Acts of Parliament establishing an Uniformity of Weights and Measures, 4 and 5 cap. 49, and 5 and 6 cap. 63, both of William the Fourth, the fiars have been required to be struck according to the imperial standard measures of capacity, in place of the local measures of weight derived from Norway, agreeably to which they had hitherto been struck. On the effect of this change, I beg to refer to a memorial by a committee of justices of the county of Orkney, relative to certain provisions in the Act 4th and 5th William the Fourth cap. 49, relating to weights and measures, a copy of which forms No. 1 of separate Appendix, which was prepared with the view of obtaining an alteration of that part of the Act requiring the fiars prices to be struck agreeably to imperial standard measures of capacity, in place of the local measures of weight heretofore in use in Orkney, and by which feu duties in kind to a very great amount payable to the Crown in the bishoprick of Orkney, and to the King's Donator in the Earldom, (Lord Dundas,) were received. The Lord Advocate of Scotland and the gentlemen connected with the measure in the ministry having, however, declined to make any change in the statute or exception as regards Orkney, evidence has been taken by the juries striking the fiars for crops 1834 and 1835, of the average weight of an imperial bushel of bere and malt, and the verdict found the price of the respective qualities of grain, malt and meal as follows, of crop 1834. "They find the medium price of the quantity of an imperial quarter of bere weighing 357 imperial pounds, to be 13*s.* 2*d.* sterling; of the quantity of 140 imperial pounds of oatmeal made from common or black oats, to be 11*s.* 6*d.* sterling; and of the quantity of 140 imperial pounds of malt, to be 16*s.* sterling, and find the duty of excise on the said quantity of malt, to be 8*s.* sterling."

With a view to give as full information as possible, there is sent with this Appendix No. 2, copy of the minutes of procedure, showing the composition of the jury, and giving the evidence with the verdict of the jury and decerniture of the Sheriff, fixing the fiars prices of last crop, 1835.

The Sheriff-clerk of Orkney is not Sheriff-clerk of Zetland, though such used to be the case, and Orkney and Zetland form one sheriffdom, but I believe no fiars prices are struck in Zetland; however, I have transmitted the requisition, to which this is a Return, to the Sheriff-clerk of Zetland, at Lerwick, who will doubtless send his Return for Zetland.

Kirkwall, 6 June 1836. *W. H. Fotheringhame*, Sheriff-clerk.

Copy MEMORIAL by COMMITTEE of JUSTICES in *Orkney*, relating to Weights and Measures, and mode of striking the Fiars by the Imperial Quarters lately established: 1834.

MEMORIAL, by a Committee of Justices of the Peace of the County of *Orkney*, relative to certain Provisions in the Act 4 & 5 Will. IV., cap. 49, intituled, "An Act to amend and render effectual two Acts of 5 & 6 Geo. IV., relating to Weights and Measures."

18th Oct. 1834.

AT a meeting of the justices of the county of Orkney, called by the Sheriff in pursuance of the 4th and 5th Will. IV., cap. 49, the following resolution was passed: viz.—"The meeting having next taken into consideration the regulation enacted by section fifteenth of the said Act, as to striking fiars prices of commodities in Scotland by the imperial quarter, without reference to any other measure whatever; and being of opinion that the operation of said clause will be productive of the greatest confusion and perplexity in this county, in consequence of the peculiarity of the tenures and local weights of the district, do therefore appoint the following gentlemen as a committee to consider the subject and effect of said clause, with reference to this county, viz.—

Captain Balfour,
Mr. Hutton,
Mr. Watt, of Breckness,
Mr. Graham, Crown Chamberlain,
Mr. Shirreff, Sheriff-substitute:

Mr. Shirreff to be convener;

—and recommend them to prepare a memorial on the subject, to be transmitted to the Lord Lieutenant, to the member for the county, and the Sheriff; and to request them to communicate with the Lord Advocate on the subject, with the view, if possible, of obtaining some amendment upon the Act in question, with reference to the county."

In compliance with these instructions the following remarks are submitted for consideration:—

There is no county in Scotland in which the mode of striking and fixing the fiars prices is a matter of so much importance as in Orkney, where every portion of land in the county is liable, on payment to the Crown in the bishoprick, and to the Crown's donatory in the earldom, of feu-duties, consisting partly of money, but chiefly of malt, bere, meal, and other articles of produce, deliverable by weight upon an instrument termed a pundlar, to which more particular reference will be made in the sequel. Prior to the year 1798, the feu-duties of the description last alluded to, when not delivered in kind, were in use to be converted at certain rates, commonly called the counting prices, which were annually fixed by Lord Dundas; but about the period above mentioned, the heritors having thought these conversions too high, considered it necessary to have the legal rule of conversion ascertained.

The heritors were advised that they were entitled to have the feu-duties payable by them, as vassels of the Crown, converted according to the Exchequer fiars, which is the established

established rule of conversion of the Crown feu-duties in all the other counties of the kingdom, and that they were also entitled to deduction of the malt tax from their feu-duties payable in malt, in terms of the 12th of Queen Anne, and agreeably to universal practice in other parts of the kingdom. They accordingly presented a petition to the Court of Exchequer, praying to have it found, 1st, That they were entitled to account for their feu-duties payable by them to the Crown or to Lord Dundas, in virtue of grants from the Crown, according to the Exchequer fiars, to be struck for the county of Orkney in time coming; and, 2dly, That they were entitled to deduct the malt tax from the malt, or its value in money, payable by them in name of feu-duty, to the Crown or to Lord Dundas, as having right from the Crown.

Lord Dundas was ordered to put in an answer to this petition, which was accordingly done; but by his answer his Lordship objected to the jurisdiction of the Court of Exchequer, and declined entering upon the merits; but after a good deal of procedure had been had, Lord Dundas, without pushing the point of jurisdiction to a decision, applied to the Barons, for the purpose of establishing an interim rule of payment of the feu-duties due by the heritors in the terms prayed for by them; in consequence of which the following order was pronounced:—

"Exchequer Chambers, Edinburgh, 3d July 1805.

Mr. William Robertson of counsel on the part of Lord Dundas, moved, That the heritors in the county of Orkney, parties to the proceedings now in court, may be ordered to make payment to the said Lord Dundas of the feu and teind duties payable by them to him, according to the Sheriff Fiars of the county of Orkney, upon receiving deduction of the malt tax upon the malt they pay, and 1*s.* 6*d.* on each meil of malt, and 9*d.* on each meil of bere, with a declaration in the receipt to be granted, that the heritors paying, and the petitioner receiving, shall not hurt their respective pleas in the matter now in dependence in court; and upon reading a petition from the said Lord Dundas, praying as above, and Mr. Gillies, of counsel with the said heritors, consenting, the Barons are pleased to order the same accordingly."

The Barons in the year 1815 found that the question at issue between Lord Dundas and the heritors fell within the jurisdiction of the Court of Exchequer; but matters between his Lordship and the heritors in regard to the settlement of the feu-duties were rested, upon the footing of the above interim order, till the year 1826, when the Act 5 Geo. IV., cap. 74, for establishing Uniformity of Weights and Measures, came into operation.

By that Act it is provided by section 18th, "That for the purpose of ascertaining and fixing the payments to be made of all stipends, feu-duties, rents, tolls, customs, casualties, and other demands whatsoever, payable in grain, malt or meal, or any other commodity or thing in that part of the United Kingdom called Scotland, or in any place or district of the same; be it enacted, that the Sheriff-depute or Sheriff-substitute in each shire, and the Stewart-depute or Stewart-substitute in each stewartry within Scotland, shall, as soon as conveniently may be after the expiration of six calendar months from and after the passing of this Act, summon and impannel a jury of the same number and with the same qualifications which are required in the jury who strike the fiars prices of grain within the same shire or stewartry, to assemble at such place or places as he shall find convenient; which jury shall inquire into and ascertain the amount, according to the standards by this Act established, of all such stipends, feu-duties, rents, tolls, customs, casualties and other demands whatsoever payable in grain, malt, meal, or any other commodity or thing, according to the weights and measures heretofore in use within the same shires or stewartries; and such inquisitions, when taken, shall be transmitted by the respective Sheriff-clerks or Stewart-clerks of such shires or stewartries into His Majesty's Court of Exchequer at Edinburgh, and shall there be enrolled of record, and shall and may be given in evidence in any action or suit at law or in equity; and the amount so to be ascertained shall, when commuted into the standard weights and measures, be the rule of payment in regard to all such stipends, feu-duties, rents, tolls, customs (customs), casualties, and other demands whatsoever, in all time coming, &c."

Before adverting further to the proceedings had under the clause of the statute above quoted, it may be necessary, in the first place, to advert to the old weights and instruments of this county which are peculiar to the district.

All the articles of produce deliverable in kind in Orkney (except butter, of which no county fiars are struck), prior to the year 1826, were deliverable according to denominations of weight, termed meils, sittings and merks, the latter being the radical weight of which the others are multiples: thus twenty-four merks are estimated as a setting, and six settings as a meil. The instruments used to ascertain these respective weights are termed pundlars and bismars. The former, upon which the feu-duties of the earldom still continue to be received, is styled in the Reddenda of Charters, "Communis lie Malt Pundlar de Orkney," or "Communis lie Bere Pundlar," as the case may be; and consists of a beam of wood of about six feet long, about three inches diameter at one end, and tapering gradually at the other. A hook is fixed at the greater end for suspending what is to be weighed upon it; about six inches from that end the tongue and sheers are fixed by a staple, and at the upper end of the sheers there is a large iron ring, through which a transverse beam is put for suspending the machine when the commodity is being weighed, during which operation it is generally supported upon the shoulders of two men. The pundlar beam is graduated, or marked with notches at certain distances, corresponding to and exhibiting the weight of the commodity weighed, upon the principle of a steelyard, of which the pundlar is a rude and imperfect imitation. The weight of the commodity is ascertained by a stone of the weight of a setting hung upon the

Appendix, No. 26.

the pundlar by an iron ring, which the weigher shifts from notch to notch till the tongue between the sheers distinguishes it to be in equilibrio. The instrument in question being extremely fallacious and imperfect in its construction, gave rise to numerous complaints and questions between the granters of the Crown and the heritors, with respect to the quantities of superior duties exigible from the latter; and it was hoped that when the Act for ascertaining and establishing Uniformity of Weights and Measures, which was passed in 1824, came into operation, that it would have had the effect of completely rectifying the evils connected with the use of the defective instruments above described. But the jury impannelled in 1826, under the clause of the statute for ascertaining and fixing the payment to be made upon a conversion of the weights and measures previously in use within the county having unfortunately differed in opinion on the import of the evidence adduced, Lord Dundas has never acquiesced in the verdict returned by the jury, the earldom pundlars in use in his Lordship's storehouse not having been tried or converted by the jury as he considers should have been done; and accordingly he has continued receiving his feu-duties upon the old weighing instruments and by the old denominations, making a conversion or striking a fiars price for himself, although at the same rate per pound with the county fiars, yet estimating a greater number of imperial pounds to the meil than what the jury fixed, which has the effect of increasing the price per meil, at which he converts the undelivered feu-duties payable in kind by the heritors, in the proportion of about one-tenth above that of the county fiars.

See Appendix, No. 1.

Without entering into the merits of the question which has been mooted between Lord Dundas and the heritors, as to the correctness or legality of the verdict of the jury impannelled for converting the old weights and measures, it is only necessary to state, that sufficient data were fixed by the mode in which the fiars have been struck since 1826, for an ultimate settlement of accounts between Lord Dundas and the heritors, whichever party shall be found to be in the right. But when the 4th & 5th Will. IV., cap. 49, comes into operation the case will be different; for that Act prohibiting the use of all weights and measures not in conformity with the imperial standard (to which it is impossible to make the pundlar or bismar), requires the Sheriff to strike the fiars of the county by the imperial quarter, without reference to any other measure whatever; so that no legal evidence can now be preserved of the price of grain, by meils, settings or merks, in proportion to the price of that commodity by the imperial quarter. The clause of the late Act regarding the striking of the fiars, seems to have been introduced under the impression that all transactions relative to grain in Scotland took place upon reference to a measure of capacity, and not to a measure of weight. Now, in Orkney, the reverse of this assumption happens to be the rule; for in all transactions relating to grain, whether as regards the contract of sale or the payment of rents and feu-duties, both the practice and the tenures invariably have reference to a measure of weight, and not to a measure of capacity. The question then arises, How is the law, as it now stands in regard to the striking of the fiars prices in Orkney, to be carried into effect, if the jury are limited in their inquiry to the price of grain by the imperial quarter without reference to any other measure whatever? It may no doubt be said, that, according to a fair interpretation of the clause in question, the jury, although limited to a specific denomination of a measure of capacity in their return or verdict, cannot be limited in that manner in their inquest. But then the evidence upon which they must return their verdict must be in a great measure hypothetical; for in order to arrive at an approximation to the truth, it will be necessary to weigh a bushel or quarter of grain or malt from every different parish or island in the county; and indeed, as a superior is entitled to the growth of the lands for feu-duties payable in kind, it may be questioned whether it would not be proper to take a sample of grain from the estate of each vassal in Orkney, and ascertain the relative proportions in weight which a meil upon the pundlar bears to an imperial quarter, and take the average of these experiments as the ratio for striking the fiars; but then the great length of time that would be occupied in an insulated district like Orkney to proceed before a jury in this manner, not to mention other difficulties, would render it altogether impracticable; and even if it could be accomplished, the fiars price, when so fixed and ascertained, would not afford sufficient data for converting the rents and feu-duties payable in kind; for the verdict of the jury converting these in 1826, had merely reference to the conversion from one denomination of weight to another, and not to a conversion from a measure of weight to a measure of capacity.

See Appendix, No. 2.

Henry *v.* M'Ewan, 25 May 1832. S. D. No. 285. p. 572. Vol. 10th

It may be proper to notice, that it has been held by the Court of Session, where parties had entered into missives of lease in Scotland, in which the rent was fixed in grain, with reference to measures established by local custom for each Scotch acre payable by the fiars prices, but the proportions not expressed which these several measures bore to the imperial standard measure, that the statute 5 Geo. IV., cap. 74, was not applicable to the case, notwithstanding the provisions of section 15th of the Act, which provides, "That from and after the 1st day of May 1825, all contracts, bargains, sales and dealings which shall be made or had within any part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, for any work to be done, or for any goods, wares, merchandize or other thing to be sold, delivered, done or agreed for by weight or measure, where no special agreement shall be made to the contrary, shall be deemed, taken and construed to be made and had according to the standard weights and measures ascertained by this Act; and in all cases where any special agreement shall be made with reference to any weight or measure established by local custom, the ratio or proportion which every such local weight shall bear to any of the said standard weights or measures, shall be expressed, declared and specified in such agreement, or, otherwise, such agreement shall be null and void." And again, it may be observed, that the tables of equalization

595

zation ordained by section 19th of the Act 5 Geo. IV. to be prepared and published by the Commissioners of the Treasury, showing the proportions between the weights and measures heretofore in use, as mentioned in the inquisitions, and the weights and measures established by the Act have never been published, in so far as regards this county, in terms of the statute; a fact of considerable importance for consideration, as the 19th section concludes with this directory provision, that "after the publication of such Tables, all future payments to be made shall be regulated according to such Tables." Until this be done, may not the clause in the 4th & 5th Will. IV. cap. 49, requiring the fiars to be struck by the imperial quarter from and after the 1st January 1835, be held to be inoperative?

But, under all these circumstances, the Memorialists humbly solicit the attention of the Lord Advocate to the subject, in the hope that his Lordship may consider it to be expedient to introduce in the next Session of Parliament, an amendment upon the late Act relative to weights and measures, so as not to render it imperative to strike the fiars in this county according to a rate having reference to the imperial quarter. The fiars in Orkney are not struck until May for the crop preceding, so that it is presumed, should his Lordship feel himself authorized to introduce the amendment suggested, there will be sufficient time for its being passed into a law before the clause in question falls to be acted upon in Orkney.

Humbly submitted by

(signed) *Chas Shirreff.*
Wm Balfour.
Thos Hutton.

VERDICT of the Jury appointed by Charles Shirreff, Esq., Sheriff-substitute of the County of *Orkney*, for the purposes mentioned in Statute 5 Geo. IV. cap. 74, sec. 18, intituled, "An Act for ascertaining and establishing Uniformity of Weights and Measures."—Kirkwall, 1st August 1826.

NAMES OF THE JURY.

Samuel Laing, of Papdale, Esq.
William Graham Watt, of Breckness, Esq.
James Spence, banker, in Kirkwall.
Thomas Hutton, Esq., factor at Crantil for Lord Dundas.
John Mitchell, Esq., writer in Kirkwall.
William Traill, of Frotoft, Esq.
John Rae, of Wire Isle, Esq.
Lieut. Gilbert Traill, of Halston.
James Spence, Esq., eldest bailie of Stromness.
James Baikie, Esq., of Tankerness.
William Matheson, land surveyor at Kirkwall.
William Traill, of Woodwick, Esq.
Mr. David Petrie, jun., residing at Gromshall, in Holm.
John Robertson, Esq., merchant in Stromness.
Mr. Patrick Goar, farmer, late of the island of Sanday, presently residing in Kirkwall.

The above jury having enclosed, made choice of Samuel Laing, Esq., to be their chancellor, and James Spence to be their clerk; and having considered the Acts of Parliament relative to the subject of inquiry, the evidence adduced, and the whole procedure, they find as follows, viz.: 1st, With regard to measures of extent and capacity, find that there exist none peculiar to the county of Orkney; 2d, With regard to measures of weight, find, by a plurality of votes, that the meil of malt on the malt pundlar is 177 pounds 12 ounces of the imperial avoirdupois weight; that the meil of oatmeal is also 177 pounds 12 ounces imperial weight; that the meil upon the bere pundlar is 116 pounds seven ounces imperial weight; that one merk upon the bismar, is one pound three ounces 12 drachms and a half of imperial weight: Find the lispound, consisting of 24 of these merks, to be 29 pounds 10 ounces and 12 drachms of imperial weight: Find that the barrel of butter is 217 pounds six ounces and 377 hundredths of an ounce imperial standard weight, exclusive of the fare. In testimony whereof this verdict, written by the said James Spence, the clerk, is subscribed on each of the three pages of which it consists, by the said Samuel Laing, Esq., chancellor, and by the said James Spence, clerk, at Kirkwall, the first day of August 1826 years. The jury further find, that the subdivisions of the meils above ascertained are six settings to each meil, and 24 merks to each setting.

(signed) *Samuel Laing*, Chancellor.
James Spence, Clerk.

RETURN, by the Sheriff-substitute of *Orkney*, of all the different Customs or Practices of selling Corn and other Grain in the District of *Orkney*.

THE general practice observed by farmers and merchants in this district in selling corn and other grain, is to dispose of it by weight, reckoning by the stone of 17½ imperial pounds; and in all cases the practice is to sell by nett weight.

In this district there are considerable quantities of victual paid in kind to the superiors of the earldom and bishoprick of Orkney as feu-duties or quit-rents, which are deliverable by weights and weighing instruments peculiar to Orkney, and supposed to be of Norwegian origin. The instruments used are denominated pundlars and bismars, and are constructed in some degree upon the principle of the ancient Roman steelyard. The lowest denomination of weight ascertained upon these instruments is that of a mark. The others, which are multiples of it, are settings, meils and lasts; reckoning 24 merks to a setting, six settings to a meil,

Appendix, No. 26.

meil, and 24 meils to a last; upon the malt and bere pundlar, and upon the bismar, reckoning 24 merks to a lispound, and eight lispounds to the barrel. These weights were adjusted before the Sheriff of the county and a jury, in pursuance of the Act 5 Geo. IV., cap. 74, in 1826, and were found to be of the following imperial avoirdupois weights respectively viz.: The meil of malt, on the malt pundlar, 177 lbs. 12 oz.; the meil of oatmeal, the same weight; the meil of bere or bigg, on the bere pundlar, 116 lbs. 7 oz.; the merk, upon the bismar, 1 lb. 3 oz. and 12 dr.; the lispound, 29 lbs. 10 oz. and 12 dr.; and the barrel, 217 lbs. 6 oz. and 307ths of an ounce.

In paying grain upon these rude instruments, the advantage is generally supposed to be in favour of the receiver, consequently the quantity paid or delivered is somewhat more than the nett weight.

(Copy.) EVIDENCE and MINUTES of PROCEDURE in Striking FIARS PRICES; Crop 1835.

Kirkwall, 19th May 1836.

Present:—CHARLES SHIRREFF, Esquire, Sheriff-substitute of the County of Orkney.

THIS being the day fixed for striking the fiars prices of the county for crop and year 1835, in terms of the Act of Sederunt, a precept of publication against a competent number of jurymen and witnesses, with the execution thereof, was reported, and they, being called, compeared.

THE ASSIZE.

Thomas Hutton, Esq., factor for Lord Dundas.
Thomas, Sands, Esq., of Swambister.
James Clouston, Esq., of Caldale.
James Johnston, Esq., of Coubister.
Mr. James M. Linklater, merchant in Kirkwall.
David Petre, Esq., factor, on estate of Grameshall.
John Baikie, Esq., of Soulisquoy.
Mr. John Spence, ship-agent, Kirkwall.
Alexander S. Graham, Esq., Crown Chamberlain.
Robert Patton, Esq., of Taviskaill.
Wm. G. Watt, Esq., of Breckness.
Oliver Scott, Esq., merchant, Kirkwall.
George Gibson, Esq., of Corse.
Mr. Archibald Miller, merchant, Kirkwall.

Mr. William Laughton, Easterbister Holm, who, being solemnly sworn and impannelled, compeared *Robert Scarth*, factor on estate of Westove, who being solemnly sworn and examined, depones that deponent has had the following transactions in grain of last crop; viz., that deponent purchased common oatmeal to the extent of 40 bolls, at the price of 12*s.* 6*d.* per boll of 8 stone Dutch. Item, 18 bolls at 12*s.*, and 15 bolls at a reference price, not yet fixed; all which he depones to be truth.

(signed) *Robert Scarth.*
Charles Shirreff.

Robert Berwick, distiller, in Kirkwall, &c., depones that deponent has purchased of the growth of crop 1835, 435 bolls of bere, weighing 280 pounds imperial each boll, at the average price of 14*s.* 9½*d.* cash; that about a fourth part of the said quantity was kiln-dried. Item, 200 bolls of raw bere of the same weight per boll, at the price of 14*s.* 9½*d.*, or thereby, upon a credit of five months upon the average. Item, 7 bolls of oatmeal, whereof 5 bolls were manufactured from white or dun oats, and two from a storehouse, where it had been delivered as debt meal, but whether manufactured from black or white oats deponent does not know; but the price of said quantity of 7 bolls was 14*s.* sterling for each 10 stones imperial. Item, 6 bolls of oatmeal of the very best description, manufactured either from white or dun oats, at the price of 16*s.* sterling for each boll of 10 stones, imperial cash; all which he depones to be truth; and further depones that the greater portion of the bere purchased by deponent as aforesaid was a picked sample for malting, and weighed upon an average about 46½ imperial pounds per bushel, all which he further depones to be truth.

(signed) *Robert Berwick.*
Charles Shirreff.

Peter Smith, keeper of the meal shed, Kirkwall, &c., depones that deponent has sold 36 bolls of oatmeal made from common or black oats, at the price or 14 *s.* per boll, cash; that deponent retailed the foresaid quantity in small parcels, some as little as a quarter of a stone, and deponent is allowed sixpence a boll for the owners of the meal for selling.

(signed) *Peter Smith.*
Charles Sherriff.

Robert Patton, of Saviskail, one of the jurymen, who being solemnly sworn and examined, depones that deponent has sold of the growth of last crop for behoof of Samuel Laing, Esq., of Papdale, 160 bolls of raw bere, imperial measure, at the price of 10*s.* per boll, cash; that deponent does not know what may have been the weight of the said bere per boll; all which he depones to be truth; and further depones that each of the said bolls contained 6 bushels imperial.

(signed) *Robert Patton.*
Charles Shirreff.

John Durran, farmer, in Widewall, South Ronaldshay, &c., depones that deponent has sold black oatmeal of last crop to the extent of 10 bolls, at 15*s.* cash; and 60 bolls, made from white or dun oats, at 16*s.* cash. Item, 30 bolls of raw bere, weighing about 47 pounds per bushel, at 15*s.* 6*d.* cash, &c.; and further depones that the bere aforesaid was sold to Mr. Robert Berwick, a preceding witness, &c.

(signed) *John Durran.*
Charles Shirreff.

Patrick Gorie, maltster, in Kirkwall, &c., depones, that deponent has purchased of the growth of last crop 500 bolls of raw bere, each boll weighing 280 imperial pounds, at the price of 8¾*d.* for each stone of 17½ pounds imperial, upon a credit of about three months on an average; that the average weight per bushel of said bere may have been about 43 pounds per bushel. Item, 153 bolls from Mr. Robert Patton, formerly given in evidence, at the price of 10*s.* per boll, weighing about 38½ pounds per bushel. Item, 150 bolls of kiln-dried bere, at 12*s.* per boll of 280 imperial pounds, on a credit of about three months; all which, &c.; and further depones that he purchased of black oatmeal of last crop 9 bolls at 11*s.* cash., &c.

(signed) *Patrick Gorie.*
Charles Shirreff.

Andrew Thompson, farmer, in Newark, in the island of Sanday, &c., depones that deponent has sold 15 bolls of common of oatmeal of last crop, at 14*s.* per boll, upon a credit of three months, &c.

(signed) *Andrew Thompson.*
Charles Shirreff.

Peter Croy, vintner, in Kirkwall, &c., depones that deponent has purchased of malt of last crop 20 meils, weighing 12 stones Dutch, at the price of 25*s.* cash, &c., and depones he cannot write.

(signed) *Charles Shirreff.*

David Petrie, factor, on the estate of Grameshall, one of the jurymen, &c., depones that deponent has sold of the growth of last crop 12 bolls of common oatmeal, at the price of 13*s.* 4*d.* per boll of 10 stones imperial, upon a credit of eight months. Item, 19 bolls of meal of the same quality and growth, at the price of 12*s.* per imperial boll of 10 stones, at four months' credit. Item, 6 bolls of meal made from murtle oats, at the price of 14*s.* per boll, at four months' credit, &c.

(signed) *David Petrie.*
Charles Shirreff.

James Cromarty, Sandwick, South Ronaldshay, &c., depones that deponent sold raw bere of last crop; viz., 94 bolls of 280 pounds imperial, averaging about 46 pounds per bushel, at the price of 15*s.* per boll. Item, 29 bolls of common oatmeal at 14*s.* 6*d.* per boll, nine months' credit, &c.

(signed) *James Cromarty.*
Charles Shirreff.

James Ferguson, excise officer, in Kirkwall, &c., depones that deponent weighed a bushel of malt manufactured from grain of last crop, which weighed respectively 34 lbs. 12 oz.; another, 34 lbs. 8 oz.; and thirdly, 32 lbs. 8 oz.; depones that the duty upon an imperial quarter is exactly 16*s.*; depones that the samples from which deponent made the above experiments were the growth of the North Isles of Orkney; that in deponent's opinion the average weight per bushel of malt of last crop upon the whole county might be about a pound and a quarter above the average of the experiments made by deponent as aforesaid, &c.

(signed) *James Ferguson.*
Charles Shirreff.

Robert Flett, maltster, in Kirkwall, &c., depones that deponent has purchased of malt made from the growth of last crop 42 stones Dutch, at 1*s.* 9*d.* per stone Dutch; that deponent has sold in the county 96 stones of malt, at 2*s.* 2*d.* per stone, averaging said sales at credit of about four months; that deponent has purchased of bere of last crop 400 bolls of 280 imperial pounds, at 9*d.* per stone Dutch, on a credit of six months, and weighing per bushel about 41 pounds and three quarters, or thereby; that the above grain was purchased in a raw state for malting, &c.

(signed) *Robert Flett.*
Charles Shirreff.

Andrew Guthrie, tailor, in Kirkwall, &c., depones that deponent has sold 26 bolls of common black oatmeal of the growth of last crop, 25 bolls of which quantity were sold at 12*s.* 8*d.*, and 1 boll at 14*s.*, retailed in small quantities, all which, &c.; and further depones that deponent was allowed a commission of sixpence a boll for making the sales, &c.

(signed) *Andrew Guthrie.*
Charles Shirreff.

Appendix, No. 26.

William Laughton, in Easterbister Holm, depones that deponent has sold 20 meils of malt made from grain of last crop, at an average price of 1*l.* 5*s.* per meil of 12 stones Dutch, cash. Item, deponent purchased 14 bolls of raw bere at 14*s.* per boll, at an average credit of three months.

(signed) *William Laughton.*
Charles Shirreff.

Alexander Spiers Graham, a juryman, &c., depones that deponent sold 11 meils of malt made from grain of last crop, at 1*l.* 1*s.* per meil of 12 stones Dutch, cash. Item, 7 bolls oatmeal, at 14*s.* per boll, cash; that the weight of the malt was 32 pounds per bushel; all which, &c.; and further depones that the said meal was paid as superior duty meal, or multer meal from from the mills of Papdale, &c.

(signed) *Alexander S. Graham.*
Charles Shirreff.

Thomas Hutton, a juryman, &c., depones that deponent sold 15 bolls of oatmeal of the growth of last crop, at 14*s.* per boll.

(signed) *Thomas Hutton.*
Charles Shirreff.

Kirkwall, 19th May 1836. The Sheriff-substitute ordains the jury to enclose in this place immediately, and return their verdict *quam primum*, in terms of the Act of Sederunt libelled on, and Act fifth and sixth William the Fourth, chapter sixty-three, section sixteenth, and that under the penalty of ten pounds Scots each.

(signed) *Charles Shirreff.*

Verdict of the Jury.

At Kirkwall, the 19th day of May 1836 years. The jury nominated of this date by the Sheriff-substitute of Orkney for striking the fiars prices of victual of the produce of this county for crop 1835 being enclosed, made choice of William Graham Watt, Esq., one of their number, to be chancellor, and Thomas Hutton, another of their number, to be clerk; and having considered the proof adduced with respect to the prices of malt, oatmeal and bere sold in Orkney, they find the medium price of the quantity of an imperial quarter of bere, weighing 345 imperial pounds, to be 15*s.* 6*d.* sterling; of the quantity of 140 imperial pounds of oatmeal made from common black oats to be 12*s.* 8*d.* sterling; and of the quantity of 140 imperial pounds of malt to be 16*s.* sterling; and find the duty of excise on the said quantity of malt to be 8*s.* sterling. In witness whereof the chancellor and clerk have subscribed these presents on this and the preceding page, place and date aforesaid.

(signed) *Wm. G. Watt*, Chancellor.
Thos. Hutton, Clerk.

Kirkwall, 19th May 1836. The Sheriff-substitute having considered the verdict of the jury returned in terms of the appointment of this date, adjudges and determines the Sheriff candlemas fiars for crop and year 1835 to be as follows; viz., finds the medium price of the quantity of an imperial quarter of bere, weighing 345 imperial pounds, to be 15*s.* 6*d.* sterling; of the quantity of 140 imperial pounds of oatmeal made from common or black oats to be 12*s.* 8*d.* sterling; and of the quantity of 140 imperial pounds of malt to be 16*s.* sterling; and finds the duty of excise on said quantity of malt to be 8*s.* sterling, and decerns accordingly.

(signed) *Charles Shirreff.*

PRECEPT to Jurymen and Witnesses for striking Fiars Prices of Crop 1835.

James Allan Maconochie, Esq., Advocate, His Majesty's Sheriff and Stewart-depute of Orkney and Zetland, To my officers, in that part conjunctly and severally specially constituted, greeting; Whereas by an Act of Sederunt of the Right Honourable the Lords of Council and Session, dated the fourteenth day of November, One thousand eight hundred and sixteen years, intituled, "Act declaring and appointing the manner of striking Fiars in the Stewartry of Orkney and Zetland," it is appointed, That the Sheriff of the stewartry or sheriffdom of Orkney, or his substitute, shall yearly betwixt the tenth and twentieth of May, summon before them a competent number of persons living within his jurisdiction, who have knowledge and experience in the prices of victuals of the produce of said sheriffdom, and from them to choose fifteen men (whereof not fewer than five shall be heritors) to pass upon the inquest; and to the same time and place into which the jury is called, there shall be summoned proper persons to be examined before them concerning the prices at which the several sorts of victual have been bought and sold, especially since the first day of November immediately preceding, until the day when the inquest is taken; from whence it may be rationally concluded what ought to be the just fiars prices established for the said crop, so that the Sheriff and Stewart-depute or his substitute, may fix and determine the same accordingly," agreeably to which Act of Sederunt, I have ordered this my precept to be issued out in manner and to the effect underwritten.

Herefore,

599

Appendix, No. 26.

Herefore, these presents seen, ye pass, and in His Majesty's name and authority and mine, lawfully summon, warn and charge

Captain William Balfour, of Elwick,
William Graham Watt, of Brickness,
James Baikie, of Tankerness,
Thomas Mackenzie, of Groundwater,
James Spence, of Tow,
James Clouston, of Caldale,
Alexander Spiers Graham, Crown Chamberlain,
Thomas Hutton, factor for Lord Dundas,
David Petrie, factor on the estate of Grameshall,
Andrew Loulit, junior, ship agent, Kirkwall,
John Spence, ship agent there,
John Robertson, of Ness,
William Gordon, of Eire,
John Baikie, of Soulisquoy,
Thomas Sands, of Swanbister,
Hector Moncrieff, of Houlton,
Allan Velzian, miller, of Cairston,
William Traill, of Frotoft,
James Garriock, junior, Flaws Erie,
Robert Scarth, factor for Westove,
David Spence, of Scapa,
Robert Patton, of Saviskail,
Thomas Warren, of Warrenfield,
Oliver Scott, merchant, Kirkwall,
James M. Linklater, merchant, Kirkwall,
David Garriock, accountant, Commercial Bank,
James Shearer, merchant, Kirkwall,
William Murray, farmer, Smoogrow,
Hugh Wood, merchant, Kirkwall,
Henry Leask, merchant there,
James Fotheringhame, of Lynn Field,
John Tait, of Towerhill,
John Cumming, of Sebay,
William Laughton, Easterbister Holm,
John Spence Biggings, there,
George Gibson, of Corie,
James Spence, clerk of the bishoprick,
James Drever, of Viewfield,
James Johnston, of Coubister,
Robert Nicholson, Campston, St. Andrews,
David Cruikshank, Malisburgh, Deerness,
William Flett, merchant, Kirkwall,
George Mc.Beath, merchant there,
Archibald Miller, merchant there,
James Garriock, junior, merchant, there,

personally or at their respective dwelling-places, to compear before me or my said substitute for Orkney, within the Tolbooth of Kirkwall, upon the nineteenth day of May current, in the hour of cause, as jurymen or assizers, to pass upon the inquest in the matter before mentioned; and also, that ye, in name and authority aforesaid, summon, warn and charge

Robert Berwick, distiller in Kirkwall,
James Drever, of Viewfield,
Patrick Gorie, merchant in Kirkwall,
Andrew Loulit, junior, ship agent there,
Robert Flett, maltster, there,
Peter Smith, keeper of the meal shed, there,
William Corston, maltster there,
Robert Patton, of Sairskail,
James Barry, factor over the estate of Elsness,
Andrew Guthrie, tailor, Kirkwall,
Charles Bews, merchant, Kirkwall,
George Hewison, harbour-master,
William Reid, Westbrough, Sanday,
William Anderson, junior, Tressness, there,
Andrew Thompson, Newark, Sanday,
John Thomson How, there,
James Spence, merchant there,
James Cromarty, Sandwick, South Ronaldshay,
John Durran, Widewall, there,
G. H. Lawrie, Burwick, there,
William Banks, junior, factor over the estate of Melsetter,
William Laughton, Easterbister Holm,
David Petrie, factor over the estate of Grameshall,
John Cumming, Sebay, St. Andrews,
Thomas Mackenzie, of Groundwater,
Allan Velzian, miller, of Cairston,
Magnus Johnson, of Swannay,
John Stadden, Stenso Eire,
George Davidson, Breck Rendall,
William Murray, Smoogrow Orpher,
Captain William Mackay, Clestrain Orpher,
James Cumming, storekeeper for Lord Dundas,
James Spence, clerk of the bishoprick,
Peter Croy, vintner, Kirkwall,
Thomas Omond, vintner there,
Peter Grey, vintner there,
Peter Calder, innkeeper there,
Robert Garriock, flesher there,
William Folsetter, Aikerness Erie,
James Ferginon, excise officer, Kirkwall, and
David Macdonald, innkeeper in Kirkwall,

personally, or at their respective dwelling-places, to appear before me or my substitute, time and place aforesaid, to bear leal and soothfast witnessing upon oath, in so far as they know and shall be interrogated, concerning the prices at which the several sorts of victual have been bought and sold within the jurisdiction of Orkney, since the first day of November last, under the penalty of ten pounds Scots each assizer and witness who shall be absent, or else to allege a reasonable cause on the contrary, with certification, &c. Given at Kirkwall the second day of May, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-six years.

Charles Shirreff.
James P. Groundwater, Sheriff-clerk Depute.

Sir, Sheriff-clerk's Office, Lerwick, 22 June 1836.

Pursuant to the requisition of Select Committee of House of Commons on Agriculture, this day received, I beg leave to state in reply, that Zetland cannot produce grain sufficient to supply its inhabitants; that very considerable quantities of meal are annually brought from Scotland and occasionally from Ireland, and that, consequently, the prices of grain in the country are regulated by the prices in Scotland and Ireland; so that it has never been the practice in Zetland to strike the fiars prices either by jury or otherwise.

I have, &c.

Francis Heddel.

Appendix No. 26.

PEEBLES-SHIRE.

1. The fiars are struck in the county of Peebles under the authority of and in compliance with the Act of Sederunt of 21st December 1723.

2. The fiars are struck as appointed by the Act of Sederunt, betwixt the 4th and 20th of February, old style, *i. e.* the 15th of February and 3d of March. On some occasions, from the day being more convenient, the striking of fiars has been postponed till the 8th or 12th of March, but never later.

3. The jury consists of, at least, eight heritors, and the remainder are made up of intelligent farmers, merchants and others, two or three being always chosen who are well acquainted with arithmetic. The jurymen are summoned by a precept issued by the Sheriff, or under the hand of the clerk of court. The names are regularly read over at the sitting down of the court, and a note taken of those absent, if no excuse is made; the jury, however, have so uniformly attended punctually or sent sufficient apologies, that no means have been found necessary to enforce their attendance.

4. The witnesses summoned to give evidence before the Sheriff and jury, are composed of the most extensive dealers in grain and meal, also millers, bakers and farmers from all parts of the county, so as to give a fair average of the different kinds of grain raised in the county, from the different soils and situations. The witnesses are cited upon the precept mentioned in No. 3. It has not been found necessary to use any means to enforce their attendance, except a citation on the precept. The witnesses are uniformly examined on oath.

5. The statement of the quantity of the several kinds of grain and meal included in the fiars prices of each of the last ten years, is subjoined. The meal and grain were of the growth of the county for the preceding year, sold betwixt 1st November and 20th February, each year. The whole of the grain, &c., sold within the county, is not included in the fiars, but only such part as was sold or bought by the witnesses examined, which, from the extent of evidence adduced, uniformly satisfied the jury that a fair average of price could be struck. In no instance was any grain not the produce of the county or any foreign produce ever included.

6. It has happened, but not very frequently, nor to any considerable extent, that one of the jury has tendered evidence of the grain sold by him, which was taken into account in striking the fiars.

7. The principle on which the fiars are struck is this; that the gross value of the meal and grain sold is ascertained, and the medium price found by dividing by the gross quantity of hundred weights of meal and quarters of grain sold, as adduced in evidence before the jury; the medium price, as thus found, gives the second fiars. Then the value of the meal and grain sold above the medium price is ascertained, and, divided by the number of the hundred weights and quarters sold above that price, as adduced in evidence before the jury, gives the first or highest fiars. The third or lowest fiars are ascertained in precisely the same way, by taking the gross value of the meal and grain below the medium price, and dividing it in the same way by the number of hundred weights and quarters sold below that price.

8. The fiars have been struck in precisely the same way for nearly twenty years; previous to this, in striking the average, the quantity sold at each particular price was not taken into computation in the same way as at present.

STATEMENT of the quantity of the several kinds of Grain and Oatmeal, as adduced in evidence before the Sheriff and Jury, at striking of the Fiars for the county of Peebles for the last Ten Years, referred to in No. 5.

	Oatmeal.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Peas.	Rough Bere.
	Loads.	*Bolls.*	*Bolls.*	*Bolls.*	*Bolls.*	*Bolls.*
Crop and year 1826 - -	193	475	724	378	71	49
Ditto 1827 - -	879	188	1,766	1,683	493	58
	Loads.	*Bushels.*	*Bushels.*	*Bushels.*	*Bushels.*	*Bushels.*
Crop and year 1828 - -	1,020	563	13,152	21,930	2,544	594
Ditto 1829 - -	714	759	12,259	12,140	1,006	1,008
Ditto 1830 - -	202	911	16,310	11,307	360	192
Ditto 1831 - -	798	1,129	4,929	16,302	1,764	282
Ditto 1832 - -	1,180	2,126	19,643	14,460	1,169	114
Ditto 1833 - -	663	1,062	2,796	9,461	858	—
	Cwts.	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*
Crop and year 1834 - -	2,332	389	1,970	1,791	190	—
Ditto 1835 - -	1,767	429	1,875	1,637	147	—

John Welsh, Sheriff-clerk.

PERTHSHIRE.

Appendix, No. 26.

1. The Sheriffs of Perthshire have been in the use to do so for time immemorial; but this matter is regulated by Act of Sederunt of the Lords of Council and Session, dated 21st December, 1723.

2. By the Act of Sederunt before quoted, the Sheriffs are required to do so between the 4th and 20th of February (old style), and this practice is adhered to in the county of Perth, where the fiars court is generally held on the last Friday of February.

3. The jurymen impannelled are fifteen in number, eight of whom are heritors, the other seven are composed of farmers, bakers, or other persons. The Sheriff issues a precept directed to his Sheriff-officers to summon the jury: the number summoned consists of upwards of twenty, from whom those impannelled are selected by the Sheriff; they are summoned to attend under a penalty of one hundred merks Scots, which is recovered in the usual way of fines in the ordinary court, by distraint of goods, or imprisonment; but in no case in Perthshire has this been necessary.

4. The principal grain-dealers in the county, maltsters, distillers, millers and farmers; these being taken from different districts, so as to include, as much as possible, the produce both of the better and inferior soils. As Newburgh, though in the county of Fife, is a considerable market for Perthshire produce, the principal grain-merchants are called to give evidence as to purchases of grain, the produce of Perthshire. They are summoned in virtue of a precept from the Sheriff under the same penalty as jurymen. They are examined upon oath. Neither jurymen nor witnesses are paid for their attendance.

5. The particulars laid before the jury by the witnesses, and which are inserted in a large sheet made up into columns for the different particulars, have only been preserved for the following years, whereof the following is the result:—

	Crop 1830.	Crop 1831.	Crop 1832.	Crop 1833.	Crop 1834.	Crop 1835.
	Imp. Qrs. B.	*Qrs. B.*	*Qrs. B.*	*Qrs. B.*	*Qrs. B.*	*Qrs. B.*
Wheat, 1st sort	3,503 4	Evidence not preserved.	6,105 1	5,407 2	3,988 3	3,408
Ditto - 2d sort	No evidence		22 4	8	90	No evidence
Barley, 1st sort	11,035 6		7,635 6	13,364 1	21,637 4	19,117 1
Ditto - 2d sort	No evidence		225	212 6	1,12 3	329
Oats, - 1st sort	4,241 7		2,604 6	4,244 2	9,239 3	5,111 7
Ditto - 2d sort	No evidence		7 4	567	886 1	486 2
Peas & Beans	468 6		244 7	328	772 7	460 2
Rye - - - -	No evidence		No evidence	40 4	No evidence	No evidence
Oatmeal Bolls of 140lb. avoird.	1,573 B		1,824 B	2,609 B	29,88½ B	3,824¾ B

No grain is admitted as evidence, unless it be the produce of the county. The whole quantity bought or sold by each witness (if the produce of the county) is included.

6. Very rarely, and to a small extent, on some occasions where there has been a want of evidence in regard to the 2d qualities of grain, or as to sales of rye, the personal knowledge of the jury has in part influenced their verdict.

7. The witness is directed in his citation to separate between the best and the inferior quality of the grain bought or sold by him: he is questioned, on his examination, as to its quality, weight, &c., and the jury decide whether it falls to be included among the first or the inferior quality. The witness (where he can give evidence upon both qualities), distinguishes both *quantity* and *price* applicable to each class.

8. The only alteration that occurs is, that since so many farmers have been in the use of paying their rents according to the fiars prices, more purchasers and fewer farmers are now summoned as witnesses than formerly.

Perth, 31st May 1836. (signed) *James M. Patton*, Sheriff-clerk.

COUNTY OF PERTH.—SCHEDULE for STRIKING FIARS for Crop and Year 1835.

WITNESSES' NAMES.	Wheat, Best Sort.			Wheat, Second Sort.			Barley, Best Sort.			Barley, Second Sort.			Oats, Best Sort.			Oats, Second Sort.			Peas.			Rye.			Oatmeal.		
	Quantity.	Rate.	Value.	Quantity.	Rate.	Value.	Quantity.	Rate.	Value.	Quantity.	Rate.	Value.	Quantity.	Rate.	Value.	Quantity.	Rate.	Value.	Quantity.	Rate.	Value.	Quantity.	Rate.	Value.	Quantity.	Rate.	Value.
			£. s. d.			£. s. d.			£. s. d.			£. s. d.			£. s. d.			£. s. d.			£. s. d.			£. s. d.			£. s. d.

RENFREWSHIRE.

Appendix, No. 26.

1. The practice of striking or ascertaining by the verdict of county inquests, in the Sheriff's courts in Scotland, the yearly average prices of corn and oatmeal, which are called fiars, is ancient, but the date of its commencement and the authority under which it commenced, is uncertain. The Court of Session, in consequence of complaints of irregularity, laid down certain rules for the government of Sheriffs in striking the fiars, by an Act of Sederunt, dated 21 December 1723, and these rules (which were repeated in a subsequent Act of Sederunt), have been generally adhered to in the practice of this county.

2. In Renfrewshire the fiars have been generally struck in the month of March.

3. The Act of Sederunt directs that the jury shall consist of fifteen, whereof not fewer than eight shall be heritors, (*i. e.* proprietors of land in the county,) and the practice has been conform to this direction. A suitable number of persons are summoned by warrant of the Sheriff to attend as jurors at the court day appointed for the purpose, and which is publicly advertised. The Sheriff is understood to have the power of enforcing attendance by fining defaulters, and from the number who appear in obedience to the summons a jury of fifteen is nominated in court by the Sheriff, consisting of heritors, farmers, merchants and other respectable persons.

4. The persons summoned to give evidence, are farmers from all parts of the county, grain-dealers, bakers, brewers and distillers. A list of witnesses is previously made up under the superintendence of the Sheriff, containing what is deemed a sufficient number of persons qualified to give a fair view of the prices throughout the county. They are summoned to attend under the pain of being fined for absence, just as jurymen are; they are always examined upon oath.

5. The "kinds" of grain for which, during each of the last ten years (and indeed for time immemorial) fiars prices have been struck in Renfrewshire, are, wheat, barley, bere, oats, beans and peas, and also oatmeal. As to "quantity," no account can be given, but there is always abundance of evidence to insure a satisfactory verdict. The evidence from which the fiars prices are struck has been always most *strictly* confined to the produce of the county as well as to crop of the particular year in question. Nothing else is taken into account by the jury.

6. The verdict of the jury, fixing the fiars averages, goes entirely upon evidence given upon oath in their own presence in open court, where parties interested in the result are usually in attendance. The evidence is recorded, and the striking the averages is purely a matter of arithmetical computation deduced from that evidence and announced in open court before dismissal of the jury.

7. Two averages of each kind of grain and oatmeal are struck, one of them a general or medium average of all qualities of marketable grain &c., and of all the prices; the other an average of what the witnesses state to be of the first or best quality. The price per quarter of every parcel in evidence as bought or sold is noted first of all in a column for the general average, and then what is sworn to as being of the first or best quality are set down in a separate column; the sum of the first column, divided by the number of parcels in it, gives the general or medium average; the amount of the second column, divided in like manner, gives the average of the first or best quality.

8. Several years ago a different mode of computation was tried. In place of the price per boll, the total price of each parcel was set down, and the sum of the purchase money being divided by the total number of bolls, gave the fiars averages. But it was found, in the most satisfactory manner, that no advantage in accuracy was gained by this plan; the other mode was found to yield precisely, or so very nearly the same results, that it has been adhered to ever since as being by far the more convenient of the two, by simplifying and shortening the labour (for it is a laborious duty) of the jury.

There was another alteration within these twenty years. Previous to the year 1813, only one average (the general average) was struck for each sort of grain and oatmeal; but from that year down to 1823, there were three averages taken, viz. 1., a general or medium average as before; 2., an average of all the prices below the general average; and, 3, of all the prices above the general average. But this mode was relinquished for two reasons, 1, because the lowest average was of no practical utility, and 2, because the plan of regarding *prices* as sufficiently indicative of quality, was deemed fallacious in seasons in any year in which considerable fluctuations of prices occurred.

Robt. Stewart,
Sheriff-clerk.

Paisley, 4 June 1836.

Appendix, No. 26.

ROSS AND CROMARTY.

Sir, Tain, 12 July 1836.

In answer to your communication of the 9th March last, I beg to explain that there is no grain-market within these counties; although there are great quantities of all descriptions of grain grown here, there is none sold except small quantities for seed, or for home consumption, all of which is done by private bargain. The great bulk of the grain is sent to Leith, London, Newcastle and other markets.

I regret that it is thus impossible for me to send you an account of the grain grown here or sold by the farmers and county gentlemen.

The absence and indisposition of the local acting Sheriff, prevented an answer to your communication until now.

I am &c.

Charles Shaw Lefevre, Esq. M.P., London. *John Grant.*

ROXBURGH.

1. The fiars prices are struck under the authority of an Act of Sederunt of the Court of Session, dated 21 December 1723.

2. They are struck between the 4th and 20th February, old style, or 17th February and 3d March, new style.

3. The Sheriff issues a precept for summoning, by an officer of court, a competent number of persons living within the sheriffdom, who have knowledge and experience of the prices and trade of victual, as jurymen under the usual penalty of one hundred merks Scot for non-attendance, and on the day fixed for the court he selects fifteen of the number summoned, to pass upon the inquest, whereof the said Act requires that not fewer than eight shall be heritors.

4. The Sheriff at same time causes to be summoned a sufficient number of persons qualified to give evidence upon oath before him and the jury, and these persons are liable to the same penalty for non-attendance as the jurymen.

5. The kinds of grain and meal included in the fiars prices are, wheat, rye, peas, beans, barley, bere or bigg, and oats and oatmeal, all the growth and produce of the county, *and none other*, as bought and sold therein, from the time of the reaping of the crop, but more especially from the 1st of November immediately preceding, and up to the court day; but no quantities are condescended on by the witnesses; they merely swear to the average prices of each of the articles, from their own dealings therein either as buyers or sellers.

6. The jury, in regulating their decision, are authorized by the said Act, to add their own personal knowledge to the evidence of the witnesses.

7. In the said county it has not been the practice to divide each kind of grain into different classes, the principle adopted for ascertaining the price being only thus: there are four districts or divisions of the county, in each, or at least in several of which, the quality of the grain is different, and therefore the witnesses are not only selected from each district to give evidence upon the grain and meal therein, but the jury are also taken from each. The evidences are then all added together, and the jury, after an average of the whole is taken, decide upon the prices either by dropping the average, if they are satisfied of its correctness, or by adding to or taking from it, if they, from their own dealings or knowledge, are of opinion that such is proper for fixing the true price; and when a vote to that effect is had recourse to, a majority of votes is held to be decisive; the jury then return their verdict to the Sheriff, who forthwith interposes his authority to it, and which finally fixes the prices for the crop and year.

8. There has been no alteration in the mode of striking the fiars within the last twenty years.

Wm. Rutherford.

Jedburgh, 2d June 1836.

SELKIRK.

1. The fiars prices are struck under the authority of the Sheriff, in virtue of the Act of Sederunt of the Court of Session, dated 21st December 1723.

2. The period in each year upon which they are struck, is the period from the time when the preceding crop began to come into the market, till a few days before the holding of the court for striking the fiars. In this county the said court has always been held on the last Wednesday of February.

3. The Act of Sederunt requires that, of the jury not fewer than eight shall be heritors; care, therefore, is taken in making up the jury roll, that there shall be, at least, eight heritors in it, and there are generally more: the others are respectable farmers in the county. The names of the jury are inserted in a list or roll, to which a precept by the Sheriff is annexed, containing a warrant to his officers to summon the persons named to attend the court on the day named, each under a penalty of 100 merks Scots, and a Sheriff-officer goes and summons them accordingly. The Sheriff's power of enforcing their attendance, has never in this county been called in question, so that it never has been necessary for him to put such power in force. The Act of Sederunt already referred to, is his authority for the whole proceedings;

ceedings; but how he would act, if the jurors summoned were to refuse to attend, I cannot take upon me to say, no case of the kind having occurred here, or, so far as I am aware of, elsewhere. Appendix. No. 26.

4. The witnesses summoned to give evidence before the Sheriff and the jury, have always in this county been millers or other dealers in corn, and meal-bakers and brewers.

The same precept which contains the names of the jury, contains the names of the witnesses, and they are summoned by an officer in the same way to attend the court and give evidence, under the like penalty as the jury, 100 merks Scots each. As to the power of enforcing their attendance, I give the same answer as in regard to the jurymen. The witnesses are examined on oath.

5. The evidence taken does not enable me to give the quantity of the several kinds of grain and meal included in the fiars prices farther back than to and including crop 1829. I have annexed a schedule, giving the quantities since that time.

The grain and meal must be the growth and produce of the county.

The whole of the grain sold within the county is not included, but only that portion spoken to by the witnesses examined.

There has been no instance so far as I am aware, of grain not the produce of the county, but sold within the same, being included in the fiars; and no foreign grain has been included.

6. The personal knowledge of the jury is rarely at all taken in this county as the foundation upon which the fiars are struck, the evidence of the witnesses being almost exclusively the the rule; if ever there is any deviation from this, it is to a very trifling extent.

7. The fiars prices are not in this county divided into different classes, one set of prices only being struck.

8. No fiars prices ever were struck in this county till crop 1812; and the only alteration which has taken place in the mode of striking them, is, that till the year 1830 the witnesses examined deponed to what were the fiars prices of the grain and meal bought and sold by them of the produce of the county and of the preceding crop, but did not state the quantities so bought and sold by them; and the fiars were struck by dividing these prices by the number of witnesses examined. This was considered an incorrect mode, as the same weight was given to the evidence of a man who sold 20 bolls, as to that of one who sold 200; and since then the witnesses have been made to state their quantities and average price, and the total amount of the prices being divided by the total quantity, the fiars are thereby struck; and in order that this may be done accurately, the witnesses, for some years past, have been made to give in notes of their quantities and prices to me, a day or two before the court; and from these I make up, previous to the court, a schedule, showing the total quantities of and price, on considering which and hearing the witnesses, the jury strike the fiars.

Sheriff-clerk's Office, Selkirk, 2d June 1836. *Andrew Lang*, Sheriff-clerk.

SCHEDULE referred to in Answer 5th, showing the Quantity and several Kinds of GRAIN and MEAL included in the Fiars Prices of the County of *Selkirk*, from Crop 1829 downwards.

	Common Oats.	Potato Oats.	Oatmeal.	Barley.	Wheat.	Peas.
	Linlithgow Bolls.	*Linlithgow Bolls.*	*Load of 280lbs.*	*Linlithgow Bolls.*	*Linlithgow Bolls.*	*Linlithgow Bolls.*
1.—Crop 1829 -	379	409	392	316	221	41
2.—Crop 1830 -	496	282	523	427	200	—
3.—Crop 1831 -	143	520	336	493	351	66
4.—Crop 1832 -	491	232	398	374	318	62
5.—Crop 1833 -	305	298	568	348	205	48
6.—Crop 1834 -	495	610	434	463	288	97
7.—Crop 1835 -	545	521	525	497	338	55

Selkirk, 2d June 1836. *Andrew Lang*, Sheriff-clerk.

STIRLING.

1. So far as the records of the Sheriff Court of Stirlingshire go back, the Sheriff appears to have struck the fiars' prices of grain yearly; but there is no mention made of the authority under which he did so, until 14th February 1724, when a copy of the Act of Sederunt, 21st December 1723, is inserted in the record, and the proceedings then, and in all the subsequent years, are stated to be conform to the said Act of Sederunt.

2. They are struck upon the period from the 1st November, old style, and the day of striking them, which for the last twenty years has happened between 26th February and 7th March, new style.

Appendix, No. 26.

3. Early in the month of February, yearly, the Sheriff-clerk makes up a list of persons from forty to fifty in number, consisting of heritors, farmers, grain-dealers, maltsters, bakers, and the like, selected from every part of the county, to which is annexed a precept or order by the Sheriff to his officers, directing them to summon the persons in the list to attend on the day fixed for holding the fiars court, under a penalty of 20*l.* Scots, (1*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* sterling), each should they fail to attend; each person is accordingly summon edunder this *certification*, and it is understood that if the summons were wilfully disobeyed the penalty would be exacted: but, from an examination of the registers of the county for upwards of thirty years, the reporter has not been able to discover an instance of the penalty having been *imposed*. Whereever mention is made of any of the jurymen being absent, the record bears, that a sufficient excuse was made for them and sustained by the Sheriff.

On the day fixed, the names of the persons so summoned are called over in open court, and from those of them present the Sheriff selects fifteen to pass upon the inquest, and the only special qualification in law required is, that of these fifteen eight at least must be heritors, in terms of the Act of Sederunt, 21st December 1723. It has, however, been held a *disqualification* if an individual has entered into any contract of lease or sale, which is to be regulated by the fiars prices of the year.

4. The witnesses are generally taken from those persons summoned as jurymen, who have not been selected for the inquest of fifteen; and very frequently after the other witnesses are examined, those of the fifteen who are supposed to have particular opportunities of knowing the prices of grain, are required by their brethren to give evidence. Any juryman, or other person in court who has an interest, may suggest that any other person who is in attendance should be examined, and such person is accordingly enclosed and examined along with the other witnesses. There is no special qualification, however, for a witness, but the same disqualification exists as in the case of a juryman. The occupations of the witnesses are the same as the jurymen, as mentioned in the answer to the previous query, and they are always examined upon oath.

5. No account of the quantities is kept, but the following articles are included in the fiars prices of this county, for the last ten years, which are of its growth and produce, viz:—

Wheat,
Kerse barley,
Dryfield barley,
Barley malt,
Kerse oats,
Dryfield oats,
Muirland oats,
Peas and beans,
Oatmeal.

Only a portion of the grain sold in the county is included. The period as fixed by the Act of Sederunt 1723, during which the fiars prices of the year are understood to be the medium, is from 1st November, old style, to the day on which they are struck, which is always from 26th February to 7th March, new style, necessarily exclude a very large proportion of the grain raised in this county, as it has not by that time been brought to the market. As mentioned before, the quantities of each kind of grain and meal, on which the jury proceeded to assess the fiars prices is not now known. The prices of grain the produce of another county in Scotland, and foreign grain, although sold within the county of Stirling, are not taken into account by the jury when assessing the prices.

6. The personal knowledge of one or more of the jury is sometimes taken as a part of the evidence on which their verdict is founded, in which case they are examined in the same way as the witnesses, as mentioned in answer to Query 4th.

7. The lands in the county of Stirling consist of three different kinds of soils. The kerse, or claylands, lying on the banks of the river Forth, are considered the best adapted for raising grain crops; and, generally speaking, the quality of the grain raised on them is considered better than that raised on other soils in the county. The second kind of soil is dryfield, and consists of a rich loam upon a subsoil of sand. Upon this soil a great deal of grain is raised, which, in consequence of the great improvements of late in agriculture, is now considered very little, if at all, inferior to the grain raised on the kerse lands. The third kind is muir lands or hill lands, and is better adapted for cattle and sheep pasturage than for raising grain: a little grain, however, is raised on this soil, and is of an inferior quality. The only classes into which the same kind of grain is divided are—

Kerse,
Dryfield and
Muirland,

and their relative prices are ascertained by the witnesses, stating on what kind of soil the several parcels of grain to which they speak is produced. There is no division, as in some counties, of the same kind of grain into first, second and third qualities.

8. The reporter is not aware, and does not think that any alteration whatever has taken place in the mode of striking the fiars of Stirlingshire during the last twenty years, except that the prices now apply to the imperial quarter; formerly they applied to the measures then in use in the county.

Stirling, 4th July 1836.

(signed) *W. Galbraith*, Sheriff-clerk.

SUTHERLAND.

1. The fiars prices of the county of Sutherland are struck under the authority of Act of Sederunt, 21st December 1723.

2. The usual period in the said county for striking the same has for many years been in the month of March; and the reason of this deviation from the Act was, that comparatively few sales of grain are effected until that period.

3. The Act of Sederunt requires that of the fifteen jurymen chosen to strike the fiars eight shall be heritors; but this qualification has not been attended to in practice in this county. The jurymen are summoned in virtue of a precept or warrant of the Sheriff, and their attendance is enforced by the imposing of a fine in case of being absent.

4. No particular qualification is required in the witnesses, farther than a knowledge of the prices of grain from actual purchases or sales, as farmers or dealers in grain and meal. They are summoned by warrant of the Sheriff, and liable to be fined for non-attendance. They are examined upon oath.

5. No record is kept of the quantity of grain, &c., included in the fiars prices. The grain, &c., must be the growth and produce of the county; none else is included.

6. The personal knowledge of the jury is taken in conjunction with the evidence of the witnesses, as the foundation upon which the fiars are struck.

7. It has not been usual to divide the same kind of grain into different classes, with the exception of oats, which are divided into "potato oats" and "common oats;" and the evidence of the witnesses is taken as to each of these separately.

8. No alteration has been made in the mode of striking the fiars in this county within the last twenty years.

(signed) *Robert Taylor*, Sheriff-clerk.

WIGTOWNSHIRE.

1. Act of Sederunt of the Lords of Council and Session, dated 21st December 1723.

2. Between the 4th and 20th February, old style.

3. Fifteen jurymen are summoned, of whom eight must be heritors, and the other seven consist generally of farmers or merchants in the neighbourhood. The jury are summoned in virtue of a warrant from the Sheriff, and, failing their attendance, are subjected in a penalty of one hundred pounds Scots each.

4. No particular qualification necessary, only that the witnesses be respectable dealers in grain. The witnesses are summoned in virtue of a warrant from the Sheriff, under the same penalty as the jurymen; but in neither case has the Sheriff a power to enforce attendance, but merely to impose the fine. The witnesses are always examined upon oath.

5. There is no record kept of the quantity, so that the Sheriff-clerk has no means of answering this part of the query. The several kinds of grain, meal, and other articles during the last ten years are as follow: wheat, barley, bere, potato oats, common oats, rye, malt, beans, peas, oatmeal and potatoes; the grain, &c., is confined to the growth and produce of the county. The only grain of the county included is what the witnesses adduce in evidence; no foreign produce is included.

6. The verdict of the jury is made up from the evidence given by the witnesses; only when a juryman is known to have been dealing in grain, he is also examined as to his grain transactions, and his evidence, given upon oath, is taken into account in striking the fiars prices.

7. As no person is allowed to be present when the jury make up their verdict, the Sheriff-clerk cannot answer this query.

8. There has been no alteration during this period.

Wigtown, 31 May 1836. (signed) *George Agnew.*

Appendix, No. 27

A RETURN of the Quantities of GRAIN and MEAL carried Coastwise from one Port of Scotland to another, during each of the Ten Year ending 5th January 1827.

PORTS from which SHIPPED.	CORN AND GRAIN.							MEAL AND FLOUR.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.	Peas and Beans.	Malt.	Total of Corn and Grain.	Wheat Flour.	Oatmeal.	Total of Meal and Flour.
	Quarters.	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*
Leith	5,652	23,864	17,730	701	2,169	267	50,383	5,064	1,565	6,629
Dunbar	6,243	1,147	1,353	5	1,301	1,458	11,507	839	-	839
Borrowstoness	1,441	4,760	343	-	1,191	885	8,620	—	—	—
Inverkeithing	-	245	-	-	-	525	770	—	—	—
Grangemouth	8,355	2,146	5,818	-	101	195	16,885	-	300	300
Alloa	1,689	702	90	-	55	1,735	4,271	-	1,505	1,505
Kirkaldy	949	1,408	682	-	52	943	4,034	-	100	100
Anstruther	12,264	5,594	3,027	26	2,356	634	23,901	—	—	—
Dundee	5,153	13,793	2,070	-	855	80	21,951	8,174	48	8,222
Perth	7,388	9,543	716	-	3,890	-	21,537	8,483	625	9,108
Montrose	2,672	17,237	3,304	-	2,587	112	25,912	6,505	228	6,733
Arbroath	2,855	9,165	-	-	260	-	12,280	-	6	6
Aberdeen	-	3,078	2,431	-	64	-	5,573	1,224	5,656	6,880
Peterhead	-	3,085	4,015	-	266	-	7,366	-	3,522	3,522
Stonehaven	250	4,123	500	-	124	-	4,997	—	—	—
Newburgh	-	650	250	-	-	-	900	-	2,413	2,413
Banff	459	6,923	10,444	-	449	-	18,275	132	13,371	13,503
Inverness	1,096	320	-	-	-	-	1,416	28	-	28
Cromarty	5,289	655	130	-	70	-	6,144	—	—	—
Portmahomack	69	-	-	-	-	-	69	—	—	—
Burghead	961	1,423	-	-	-	-	2,384	-	8	8
Wick	-	353	1,626	-	-	-	1,979	-	220	220
Thurso	62	1,755	2,771	-	220	-	4,808	-	2,361	2,361
Lerwick	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,891	3,891
Kirkwall	-	4,568	1,027	-	-	1,183	6,778	-	714	714
Campbeltown	-	-	110	-	458	2,763	3,331	-	588	588
Glasgow	157	111	1,093	-	-	7	1,368	6,719	6,248	12,967
Greenock	115	68	98	-	-	-	281	372	1,654	2,026
Tobermory	-	209	-	-	-	-	209	—	—	—
Rothsay	57	-	-	-	-	-	57	-	175	175
Irvine	217	-	778	-	-	-	995	80	—	80
Air	497	-	40	-	7	15	559	429	3,422	3,851
Girvan	1,164	57	51	-	36	-	1,308	208	97	305
Stranraer	1,045	808	4,336	25	10	-	6,224	27	1,325	1,352
Dumfries	-	2,813	182	-	-	-	2,995	-	3	3
Kirkcudbright	-	247	259	-	-	-	506	105	3,800	3,905
Wigtown	-	1,057	52	7	23	-	1,139	-	1,403	1,403
TOTAL	66,099	122,177	65,326	764	16,544	10,802	281,712	38,389	55,248	93,637

Year ending 5th January 1828.

Leith	7,383	15,720	12,456	1,407	4,157	946	42,069	5,406	1,793	7,199
Dunbar	7,267	1,465	1,220	-	931	2,342	13,225	2,002	-	2,002
Borrowstoness	1,390	1,156	486	-	245	273	3,550	—	—	—
Inverkeithing	-	20	60	-	-	494	574	—	—	—
Grangemouth	4,187	7,352	3,648	-	2,696	-	17,883	—	—	—
Alloa	1,579	550	120	-	4	2,157	44,10	-	166	166
Kirkaldy	1,304	526	495	-	135	463	2,923	-	185	185
Anstruther	17,512	8,253	607	11	512	1,115	28,010	-	8	8
Dundee	5,523	18,945	7,880	462	403	-	33,213	18,267	-	1,8267
Perth	11,434	12,406	943	50	295	-	25,128	23,865	-	23,865
Montrose	2,600	27,055	2,818	24	1,826	770	35,093	4,033	3	4,036
Arbroath	2,789	11,204	612	-	256	-	14,861	-	63	63
Aberdeen	-	1,796	978	-	349	-	3,123	591	1,251	18,42
Peterhead	-	1,787	3,917	-	426	-	6,130	403	1,309	1,712
Stonehaven	145	3,860	-	-	131	-	4,136	—	—	—
Newburgh	-	424	590	-	-	-	1,014	-	440	440
Banff	1,424	7,198	16,380	31	531	-	25,564	-	10,163	10,163
Inverness	3,042	425	130	-	-	-	3,597	63	4	67
Cromarty	4,579	739	204	-	-	-	5,522	—	—	—
Portmahomack	897	292	90	-	71	-	1,350	—	—	—
Burghead	1,621	15	25	-	-	-	1,661	—	—	—
Wick	-	2,290	3,551	-	134	-	5,975	-	2,633	2,633
Thurso	180	3,463	3,578	-	534	-	7,755	-	1,931	1,931
Helmsdale	-	375	-	-	-	-	375	—	—	—
Lerwick	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	374	374
Kirkwall	-	4,448	986	-	11	230	5,675	-	3,135	3,135
Campbeltown	-	-	-	-	-	109	2,894	—	—	—
Tarbert	8	-	-	-	-	-	8	—	—	—
Glasgow	189	652	640	-	263	101	1,845	7,879	25,631	33,510
Greenock	260	202	268	-	26	-	756	122	5,013	5,135
Tobermory	-	293	-	-	-	-	293	—	—	—
Rothesay	12	18	1,071	-	-	-	1,101	—	—	—
Irvine	691	1	555	-	-	-	1,247	3	263	266
Air	29	-	30	-	78	-	137	769	180	949
Girvan	335	91	9	-	77	-	512	55	10	65
Stranraer	954	501	522	37	21	-	2,085	40	2,259	2,299
Dumfries	-	1,547	-	-	-	107	1,654	—	—	—
Kirkcudbright	-	534	-	-	-	-	534	25	345	370
Wigtown	8	328	227	-	2	-	565	2	75	77
TOTAL	77,342	135,931	65,096	2,072	14,223	11,783	306,447	63,525	57,234	120,759

Appendix, No. 27

Years ending the 5th January 1836; distinguishing the Ports and Sub-Ports from which and to which the same have been carried.

Year ending 5th January 1827.

PORTS to which CARRIED.	CORN AND GRAIN.							MEAL AND FLOUR.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.	Peas and Beans.	Malt.	Total of Corn and Grain.	Wheat Flour.	Oatmeal.	Total of Meal and Flour.
	Quarters.	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*
Leith	27,712	41,236	24,881	31	3,009	2,781	99,650	4,348	4,455	8,803
Preston Pans	20	943	-	-	-	862	1,825	—	—	—
Dunbar	140	6,086	1,586	-	63	-	7,875	—	—	—
Borrowstoness	245	5,323	3,238	375	1,168	815	11,164	—	—	—
Inverkeithing	72	2,033	285	-	27	37	2,454	-	655	655
Grangemouth	5,100	8,936	2,456	-	4,146	38	20,676	375	8	383
Alloa	895	32,270	2,594	-	896	-	36,655	-	635	635
Kirkaldy	148	8,876	1,275	-	-	3,283	13,582	75	133	208
Anstruther	20	1,586	2,108	-	-	-	3,714	—	—	—
Dundee	1,105	470	6,940	-	153	-	8,668	2,248	4,371	6,619
Perth	832	1,298	3,908	-	2	79	6,119	-	348	348
Montrose	387	50	3,473	-	-	-	3,910	-	1,700	1,700
Arbroath	-	-	11	-	-	-	11	-	1,588	1,588
Aberdeen	9,032	389	1,268	-	93	-	10,782	13,284	1,014	14,298
Peterhead	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	388	388
Banff	10	34	182	-	-	-	226	1,709	1,129	2,838
Inverness	-	1,030	1,171	-	2	3	2,206	197	14,014	14,211
Wick	-	11	28	-	64	-	103	488	292	780
Thurso	-	-	84	-	-	9	93	200	1,148	1,348
Lerwick	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	134	3,493	3,627
Kirkwall	-	-	-	12	-	-	12	141	188	329
Stornoway	-	8	4	-	-	-	12	8	2,295	2,303
Campbeltown	-	116	72	-	-	-	188	2,267	2,218	4,485
Islay	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Tarbert	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	3	15
Glasgow	19,745	8,891	7,102	346	6,710	2,814	45,608	7,421	4,023	11,444
Greenock	354	662	705	-	6	77	1,804	3,513	7,742	11,255
Inverary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	25	32
Lochgilphead	-	-	60	-	-	-	60	-	28	28
Oban	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	231	231
Tobermory	-	454	9	-	-	-	463	18	2,229	2,247
Rothesay	-	-	121	-	-	-	121	70	318	388
Irvine	38	491	750	-	23	-	1,302	260	-	260
Troon	-	374	-	-	-	-	374	—	—	—
Saltcoats	75	-	-	-	-	-	75	—	—	—
Air	158	375	679	-	182	-	1,394	77	75	152
Girvan	-	85	336	-	-	-	421	3	174	177
Stranraer	11	-	-	-	-	4	15	1,452	325	1,777
Kirkcudbright	-	150	-	-	-	-	150	—	—	—
Wigtown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	80	3	83
TOTAL	66,099	122,177	65,326	764	16,544	10,802	281,712	38,389	55,248	93,637

Year ending 5th January 1828.

Leith	33,000	49,548	26,613	412	2,837	3,418	115,828	5,447	1,777	7,224
Preston Pans	10	-	-	-	-	1,100	1,110	—	—	—
Dunbar	300	1,944	1,105	-	160	-	3,509	200	-	200
Borrowstoness	2,771	3,355	2,383	-	612	1,132	10,253	100	2,500	2,600
Inverkeithing	220	872	1,115	550	10	428	3,195	-	30	30
Grangemouth	8,797	6,703	1,478	-	1,348	75	18,401	52	-	52
Alloa	2,719	41,246	4,480	550	135	-	49,130	25	130	155
Kirkaldy	388	4,339	2,586	-	7	2,037	9,357	—	—	—
Anstruther	61	2,117	551	-	-	-	2,729	—	—	—
Burnt Island	-	654	-	-	-	-	654	-	63	63
St. Andrews	-	255	-	-	-	-	255	—	—	—
Dundee	1,389	19	1,012	50	35	-	2,505	17,415	240	17,655
Perth	300	-	1,990	-	36	-	2,326	50	-	50
Montrose	432	67	1,843	-	-	-	2,342	-	235	235
Aberdeen	9,800	1,726	6,307	-	111	50	17,994	7,684	165	7,849
Peterhead	40	-	-	-	-	-	40	2,450	-	2,450
Banff	200	1	360	-	-	-	561	2,103	405	2,508
Inverness	-	3,070	5,371	-	26	-	8,467	473	19,548	20,021
Ullapool	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	8
Fort William	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	648	648
Wick	-	-	20	-	-	-	20	520	1,660	2,180
Thurso	-	15	20	-	-	-	35	213	737	950
Lerwick	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	220	550	770
Kirkwall	-	-	-	7	-	-	7	320	-	320
Stornoway	-	170	-	-	-	-	170	85	2,540	2,625
Campbeltown	-	285	13	-	-	5	303	2,989	1,296	4,285
Tarbert	-	5	-	-	-	-	5	-	297	297
Glasgow	15,740	17,530	6,879	503	8,296	2,897	51,845	17,351	551	17,902
Greenock	862	1,259	214	-	222	153	2,710	3,630	17,751	21,381
Lochgilphead	-	-	-	-	-	342	342	-	261	261
Oban	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	166	166
Tobermory	-	15	-	-	-	-	15	-	1,971	1,971
Rothesay	-	-	147	-	-	-	147	-	615	615
Irvine	120	492	114	-	144	146	1,016	636	-	636
Saltcoats	110	-	-	-	-	-	110	—	—	—
Ardrossan	-	-	-	-	26	-	26	—	—	—
Air	-	193	175	-	174	-	542	595	1,607	2,202
Girvan	10	51	180	-	3	-	244	-	1,259	1,259
Stranraer	69	-	99	-	36	-	204	940	224	1,164
Dumfries	-	-	-	-	5	-	5	—	—	—
Kirkcudbright	4	-	41	-	-	-	45	2	-	2
Wigtown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	-	25
TOTAL	77,342	135,931	65,096	2,072	14,223	11,783	306,447	63,525	57,234	120,759

Appendix No. 27.—Return of the Quantities of Grain and Meal carried Coastwise from - - - -

Year ending 5th January 1829.

PORTS from which SHIPPED.	CORN AND GRAIN.							MEAL AND FLOUR.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.	Peas and Beans.	Malt.	Total of Corn and Grain.	Wheat Flour.	Oatmeal.	Total of Meal and Flour.
	Quarters.	*Quarters.*	*Quarters*	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*
Leith	7,962	8,878	1,606	992	1,877	392	21,707	5,534	744	6,278
Dunbar	5,091	1,863	1,353	-	1,167	3,928	13,402	2,516	-	2,516
Borrowstoness	3,390	2,646	369	-	1,857	54	8,316	—	30	30
Inverkeithing	25	30	191	-	-	688	934	—	—	—
Grangemouth	957	16,673	1,150	15	551	-	19,346	—	—	—
Alloa	1,204	263	16	-	78	1,050	2,611	—	—	—
Kirkaldy	3,903	4,747	3,416	-	254	2,778	15,098	—	—	—
Anstruther	13,450	12,663	2,202	22	3,782	225	32,344	—	—	—
Dundee	6,191	31,428	1,697	180	2,641	39	42,176	11,458	-	11,458
Perth	5,828	20,417	2,653	105	4,481	-	33,484	7,525	-	7,525
Montrose	1,221	32,274	6,048	85	1,995	543	42,166	4,173	4	4,177
Arbroath	2,467	14,160	1,089	-	444	-	18,160	—	—	—
Aberdeen	155	2,221	8,365	-	29	-	10,770	1,685	4,803	6,488
Peterhead	9	1,912	4,736	-	310	-	6,967	15	1,833	1,848
Stonehaven	-	3,542	700	-	58	-	4,300	—	—	—
Newburgh	-	910	410	-	119	-	1,439	—	—	—
Banff	1,070	6,494	17,847	202	322	-	25,935	35	9,764	9,799
Inverness	3,786	395	2,846	-	-	-	7,027	—	—	—
Cromarty	5,607	838	392	-	127	-	6,964	—	—	—
Findhorn	370	366	274	-	-	-	1,010	—	—	—
Lossiemouth	599	659	23	-	-	-	1,281	—	—	—
Portmahomack	1,993	476	681	53	61	-	3,264	—	—	—
Burghead	561	380	104	-	-	-	1,045	—	—	—
Wick	11	695	2,205	-	15	-	2,926	—	—	—
Thurso	180	2,152	2,543	-	67	-	4,942	-	1,739	1,739
Helmsdale	69	463	-	-	-	-	532	-	800	800
Lerwick	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,301	3,301
Kirkwall	-	4,135	1,115	-	-	391	5,641	-	1,779	1,779
Stornoway	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4
Campbeltown	13	240	-	-	322	4,228	4,803	-	275	275
Islay	-	-	161	-	-	-	161	-	55	55
Tarbert	-	18	-	-	-	-	18	—	—	—
Glasgow	384	1,579	243	-	5	170	2,381	3,966	12,023	15,989
Greenock	-	-	-	-	15	-	15	48	1,369	1,417
Tobermory	-	113	-	-	-	-	113	—	—	—
Rothesay	45	15	-	-	-	-	60	—	—	—
Irvine	841	44	270	-	-	-	1,155	6	558	564
Air	2,030	-	32	4	53	-	2,119	1,438	4,557	5,995
Girvan	1,885	100	210	12	34	-	2,241	24	178	202
Stranraer	1,157	567	2,607	276	4	-	4,611	28	8,244	8,272
Port Patrick	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	858	858
Dumfries	183	8,142	1,414	-	-	-	9,739	-	1,020	1,020
Kirkcudbright	60	1,815	1,222	-	-	-	3,097	20	6,150	6,170
Wigtown	83	1,646	755	-	15	-	2,499	-	1,378	1,378
TOTAL	72,780	185,959	70,945	1,946	20,683	14,486	366,799	38,471	61,466	99,937

Year ending 5th January 1830.

Leith	8,760	18,435	5,317	59	2,113	780	35,464	6,442	1,360	7,802
Dunbar	2,492	1,744	3,163	12	3,010	5,957	16,383	761	-	761
Borrowstoness	2,825	1,263	859	-	1,499	358	6,804	-	23	23
Inverkeithing	-	460	-	-	15	187	662	—	—	—
Grangemouth	13,327	7,005	1,758	-	1,055	241	23,386	—	—	—
Alloa	999	10	-	-	20	30	1,059	—	—	—
Kirkaldy	2,316	5,567	2,699	-	610	257	11,449	-	57	57
Anstruther	7,126	10,308	3,310	22	4,464	323	25,553	—	—	—
Dundee	4,050	23,189	3,193	380	2,847	45	33,704	15,840	-	15,840
Perth	929	7,397	2,121	-	3,287	-	13,734	3,343	344	3,687
Montrose	779	23,782	5,198	-	3,830	40	33,629	2,570	1	2,571
Arbroath	909	12,630	1,638	-	681	-	15,858	—	—	—
Aberdeen	110	1,698	4,785	-	788	400	7,781	1,680	1,406	3,086
Peterhead	-	554	1,760	-	135	-	2,449	-	250	250
Stonehaven	-	2,654	2,435	-	75	-	5,204	—	—	—
Newburgh	-	970	200	-	-	-	1,170	-	300	300
Banff	1,495	9,359	10,976	105	386	-	22,321	315	2,132	2,437
Inverness	2,826	404	207	-	-	-	3,437	304	116	420
Cromarthy	4,671	1,213	2,119	-	731	-	8,734	—	—	—
Findhorn	829	440	292	-	-	-	1,561	—	—	—
Lossiemouth	845	761	226	29	10	-	1,871	-	150	150
Portmahomack	916	381	113	-	-	-	1,410	—	—	—
Burghead	437	247	170	-	-	-	854	—	—	—
Wick	20	283	3,983	-	69	-	4,355	-	300	300
Thurso	100	1,041	3,856	-	214	-	5,211	-	1,177	1,177
Helmsdale	117	864	272	-	-	-	1,253	—	—	—
Lerwick	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	98	98
Kirkwall	-	5,630	1,468	-	32	1,159	8,289	-	2,280	2,280
Stornoway	-	30	-	-	-	-	30	—	—	—
Campbeltown	86	40	17	-	543	2,805	3,491	-	200	200
Irlay	-	231	340	-	20	-	591	-	16	16
Parbert	-	9	-	-	10	-	19	—	—	—
Glasgow	1,615	2,069	1,467	-	130	628	5,909	5,491	4,561	10,052
Greenock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	230	260
Tobermory	-	1,118	-	-	-	-	1,113	—	—	—
Rothesay	27	-	-	-	-	-	27	—	—	—
Irvine	1,591	12	35	6	-	-	1,644	-	338	338
Air	2,199	104	-	-	169	-	2,472	1,106	947	2,053
Girvan	2,376	12	-	-	4	-	2,392	-	537	537
Stranraer	1,103	1,518	1,504	60	-	-	4,185	-	3,109	3,109
Port Patrick	-	209	-	-	-	-	209	-	75	75
Dumfries	40	8,543	917	-	-	288	9,788	—	—	—
Kirkcudbright	322	865	678	-	-	-	1,865	10	760	770
Wigtown	23	928	120	-	142	-	1,213	-	440	440
TOTAL	66,260	154,017	67,201	673	26,889	13,498	328,538	37,892	21,197	59,089

611

- - - - - one Port of Scotland to another, during each of the Ten Years ending 1836—*(continued.)*

Year ending 5th January 1829.

PORTS to which CARRIED.	CORN AND GRAIN.							MEAL AND FLOUR.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.	Peas and Beans.	Malt.	Total of Corn and Grain.	Wheat Flour.	Oatmeal.	Total of Meal and Flour.
	Quarters.	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*
Leith	40,385	52,801	46,308	432	5,671	6,089	151,686	3,959	3,732	7,691
Dunbar	947	2,294	130	- -	- -	- -	3,371	400	- -	400
Borrowstoness	2,326	3,492	490	- -	435	1,423	8,166	- -	375	375
Inverkeithing	286	2,223	773	- -	- -	100	3,382	—	—	—
Grangemouth	3,857	14,678	3,274	939	4,581	- -	27,329	317	21	338
Alloa	1,651	57,830	2,267	175	74	- -	61,997	15	2,725	2,740
Kirkaldy	26	4,915	165	- -	250	2,153	7,509	—	—	—
Anstruther	59	1,500	153	85	- -	- -	1,797	—	—	—
Burnt Island	- -	1,862	- -	- -	- -	- -	1,862	—	—	—
St. Andrew's	- -	60	- -	- -	- -	- -	60	—	—	—
Dundee	855	100	1,215	- -	175	- -	2,345	1,510	80	1,590
Perth	- -	300	- -	- -	- -	- -	300	—	—	—
Montrose	150	- -	429	- -	- -	- -	579	- -	344	344
Arbroath	- -	- -	468	- -	- -	- -	468	25	- -	25
Gourdon	- -	70	- -	- -	- -	- -	70	—	—	—
Aberdeen	6,560	1,790	560	- -	2	80	8,992	9,253	- -	9,253
Stonehaven	- -	500	- -	- -	- -	- -	500	—	—	—
Banff	- -	- -	69	- -	- -	150	219	2,199	438	2,637
Inverness	- -	2,041	3,599	- -	83	- -	5,723	494	16,627	17,121
Fort William	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	25	25
Isle of Skye	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	90	90
Isle of Pineo	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	45	45
Wick	- -	8	- -	- -	- -	- -	8	1,261	568	1,829
Thurso	- -	- -	80	- -	- -	- -	80	171	700	871
Lerwick	- -	30	- -	- -	- -	- -	30	59	4,057	4,116
Kirkwall	- -	- -	- -	8	- -	- -	8	229	- -	229
Stornoway	- -	50	6	- -	- -	- -	56	3	1,605	1,608
Campbeltown	- -	1,205	45	- -	5	- -	1,255	3,321	2,158	5,479
Lochfine	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	63	63
Glasgow	15,138	34,030	8,509	305	9,160	3,638	70,780	13,428	9,715	23,143
Port Glasgow	- -	199	250	- -	- -	- -	449	—	—	—
Greenock	34	2,373	552	- -	10	231	3,200	879	9,930	10,809
Inverary	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	550	550
Lochgilphead	- -	156	60	- -	- -	- -	216	- -	681	681
Oban	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	643	643
Easdale	- -	- -	50	- -	- -	- -	50	- -	188	188
Tobermory	18	113	46	- -	- -	- -	177	3	3,895	3,898
Rothesay	40	- -	180	- -	- -	- -	220	- -	1,538	1,538
Irvine	210	860	365	- -	106	622	2,163	764	8	772
Air	189	362	810	2	128	- -	1,491	9	500	509
Girvan	- -	7	68	- -	- -	- -	75	- -	165	165
Stranraer	49	110	24	- -	3	- -	186	52	- -	52
Wigtown	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	120	- -	120
TOTAL	72,780	185,959	70,945	1,946	20,683	14,486	366,799	38,471	61,466	99,937

Year ending 5th January 1830.

Leith	26,633	50,948	36,139	321	9,626	2,229	125,896	4,687	1,533	6,220
Fisherron	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	246	246	—	—	—
Dunbar	448	2,480	- -	- -	278	- -	3,206	—	—	—
Borrowstoness	534	5,856	3,643	- -	1,600	5,131	16,764	- -	500	500
Inverkeithing	- -	2,890	154	- -	- -	780	3,824	- -	414	414
Grangemouth	1,526	8,400	6,601	- -	4,333	- -	20,860	- -	23	23
Alloa	974	41,647	3,446	238	323	159	46,787	- -	363	363
Kirkaldy	677	2,669	897	- -	- -	1,353	5,596	50	- -	50
Anstruther	67	1,252	- -	- -	- -	- -	1,319	1,340	- -	1,340
Burnt Island	- -	2,899	18	- -	- -	- -	2,917	—	—	—
Dundee	1,722	- -	1,153	- -	57	- -	2,932	160	157	317
Perth	985	- -	100	- -	150	- -	1,235	—	—	—
Montrose	476	- -	1,705	- -	- -	- -	2,181	- -	825	825
Arbroath	- -	- -	200	- -	- -	- -	200	170	58	228
Gourdon	- -	- -	27	- -	- -	- -	27	—	—	—
Aberdeen	7,406	901	1,736	5	67	- -	10,115	7,289	355	7,644
Peterhead	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1,063	- -	1,063
Banff	300	- -	183	- -	- -	- -	483	1,310	75	1,385
Inverness	66	616	115	- -	- -	3	800	248	3,036	3,284
Wick	- -	53	357	- -	- -	- -	410	1,038	384	1,422
Thurso	- -	189	29	- -	- -	- -	218	175	830	1,005
Golspie	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	150	150
Lerwick	- -	2	30	- -	- -	- -	32	118	280	398
Kirkwall	- -	- -	- -	31	- -	- -	31	309	- -	309
Stornoway	- -	- -	245	- -	- -	- -	245	62	1,116	1,178
Campbeltown	9	2,296	109	- -	5	- -	2,419	3,224	2,393	5,617
Glasgow	22,205	25,206	8,736	73	9,785	2,693	68,698	13,266	3,042	16,308
Port Glasgow	- -	- -	- -	- -	5	- -	5	—	—	—
Greenock	1,200	4,314	196	- -	96	145	5,951	1,261	2,807	4,068
Oban	- -	- -	21	- -	- -	- -	21	- -	475	475
Easdale	- -	- -	35	2	- -	- -	37	—	—	—
Tobermory	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	262	262
Rothesay	150	- -	90	- -	- -	- -	240	- -	25	25
Irvine	447	1,055	282	- -	111	414	2,309	690	453	1,143
Troon	- -	152	13	- -	- -	- -	165	—	—	—
Air	247	104	423	3	435	8	1,220	81	783	864
Girvan	- -	6	72	- -	- -	- -	78	- -	848	848
Stranraer	97	82	16	- -	18	49	262	1,351	10	1,361
Dumfries	72	- -	430	- -	- -	- -	502	—	—	—
Annan	19	- -	- -	- -	- -	288	307	—	—	—
TOTAL	66,260	154,017	67,201	673	26,889	13,498	328,538	37,892	21,197	59,089

Appendix No. 27.—Return of the Quantities of Grain and Meal carried Coastwise from - - - -

Year ending 5th January 1831.

PORTS from which SHIPPED.	CORN AND GRAIN.							MEAL AND FLOUR.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.	Peas and Beans.	Malt.	Total of Corn and Grain.	Wheat Flour.	Oatmeal.	Total of Meal and Flour.
	Quarters.	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*
Leith	19,537	8,283	37,594	25	4,071	170	69,680	4,973	1,364	6,337
Dunbar	4,161	1,683	5,847	-	2,893	1,710	16,294	1,759	-	1,759
Borrowstoness	2,571	2,565	2,717	-	1,541	-	9,394	—	—	—
Inverkeithing	-	1,843	200	-	-	-	2,043	—	—	—
Grangemouth	29,431	8,873	2,467	-	882	318	41,971	—	—	—
Alloa	795	480	18	-	-	1,607	2,900	293	-	293
Kirkaldy	4,908	10,335	2,188	-	173	-	17,604	-	395	395
Anstruther	9,669	10,656	2,960	47	3,752	335	27,419	-	12	12
Dundee	4,181	37,407	3,602	500	5,001	356	51,047	14,325	78	14,403
Perth	176	19,980	1,816	-	949	-	22,921	373	-	373
Montrose	2,779	32,122	10,476	10	3,757	-	49,144	3,520	112	3,632
Arbroath	1,595	17,047	1,116	10	747	-	20,515	—	—	—
Aberdeen	59	9,396	4,871	-	-	20	14,346	745	6,900	7,645
Peterhead	105	2,048	3,410	-	169	-	5,732	-	1,070	1,070
Stonehaven	-	4,526	1,800	-	-	-	6,326	—	—	—
Newburgh	-	520	1,140	-	-	-	1,660	-	753	753
Banff	1,355	7,306	8,644	92	264	-	17,661	47	6,000	6,047
Inverness	4,854	2,022	914	-	-	-	7,790	30	4	34
Cromarty	2,531	1,644	1,646	-	250	-	6,071	—	—	—
Findhorn	432	538	751	-	20	-	1,741	—	—	—
Lossiemouth	587	402	201	-	-	-	1,190	—	—	—
Portmahomack	1,294	744	309	27	-	-	2,374	—	—	—
Burghead	206	336	158	-	-	-	700	—	—	—
Wick	40	-	1,197	-	-	-	1,237	—	—	—
Thurso	75	1,586	1,347	-	163	-	3,171	-	588	588
Helmsdale	188	524	-	-	-	-	712	—	—	—
Lerwick	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	233	233
Kirkwall	-	3,454	1,833	-	22	1,371	6,680	-	1,235	1,235
Stornoway	-	8	-	-	-	-	8	—	—	—
Campbeltown	19	150	-	-	535	3,058	3,762	—	—	—
Islay	11	24	813	-	55	-	903	—	—	—
Glasgow	2,067	839	1,467	-	409	811	5,593	5,713	14,280	19,993
Greenock	-	360	-	-	-	-	360	68	143	211
Tobermory	-	1,500	-	-	-	-	1,500	—	—	—
Rothesay	15	-	-	-	-	-	15	—	—	—
Irvine	1,431	-	-	-	120	-	1,551	25	840	865
Air	1,968	23	3	-	45	-	2,039	1,123	638	1,761
Girvan	596	-	-	-	-	-	596	-	96	96
Stranraer	862	1,497	2,668	22	-	-	5,049	5	6,297	6,302
Port Patrick	-	84	-	-	-	-	84	-	380	380
Dumfries	556	7,492	208	-	-	-	8,256	—	—	—
Kirkcudbright	-	290	851	-	-	-	1,141	5	770	775
Wigtown	23	570	-	18	-	-	611	-	521	521
TOTAL	99,077	199,157	105,232	751	25,818	9,756	439,791	33,004	42,709	75,713

Year ending 5th January 1832.

Leith	9 587	15,292	2,231	35	3,138	31	30,314	5,304	667	5,971
Dunbar	4,472	4,739	3,333	-	2,413	476	15,424	850	6	856
Borrowstoness	1,638	3,920	1,123	-	1,546	-	8,227	-	58	58
Inverkeithing	-	350	-	-	-	-	350	—	—	—
Grangemouth	15,294	1,270	22,881	-	1,960	311	41,716	—	—	—
Alloa	430	757	4	-	81	2,978	4,250	1,567	-	1,567
Kirkaldy	2,594	7,185	2,828	-	70	-	12,677	—	—	—
Anstruther	9,597	9,941	2,001	44	1,807	4,175	27,565	-	72	72
Dundee	6,140	37,830	4,230	118	834	1,562	50,714	15,953	64	16,017
Perth	1,276	20,340	780	68	71	-	22,535	388	466	854
Montrose	1,438	31,132	8,450	6	2,094	114	43,234	2,818	26	2,844
Arbroath	748	13,735	2,855	-	955	-	18,293	—	—	—
Aberdeen	200	10,631	8,652	-	107	369	19,959	1,405	6,316	7,721
Peterhead	10	1,242	5,527	-	242	-	7,021	-	390	390
Stonehaven	-	7,960	2,340	-	200	-	10,500	—	—	—
Newburg	-	2,135	1,625	-	-	-	3,760	-	400	400
Banff	2,650	8,461	5,316	64	453	-	16,944	40	5,162	5,202
Inverness	4,333	526	117	-	-	-	4,976	81	264	345
Cromarty	5,185	1,393	1,935	-	50	-	8,563	—	—	—
Finchorn	909	1,505	790	-	-	-	3,204	—	—	—
Lossiemouth	784	650	266	-	-	-	1,700	—	—	—
Portmahomack	307	220	-	-	53	-	580	—	—	—
Burghead	2,218	2,243	229	-	-	-	4,690	—	—	—
Wick	86	299	939	-	40	-	1,364	-	30	30
Thurso	120	2,211	3,167	-	351	-	5,849	-	140	140
Helmsdale	550	826	123	-	15	-	1,514	—	—	—
Lerwick	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	106	106
Kirkwall	-	4,876	1,720	-	3	1,166	7,765	-	1,645	1,645
Stornoway	5	-	-	-	-	-	5	—	—	—
Campbeltown	43	-	13	-	296	1,857	2,209	—	—	—
Islay	-	-	305	10	6	-	321	-	50	50
Tarbert	-	5	-	-	-	-	5	—	—	—
Glasgow	2,701	4,486	4,273	-	389	1,563	13,412	7,420	15,984	23,404
Greenock	-	4	-	-	-	-	4	5	815	820
Tobermory	-	46	-	-	-	-	46	—	—	—
Irvine	2,144	54	122	-	25	-	2,345	-	538	538
Air	787	-	16	-	15	-	818	1,067	178	1,245
Girvan	906	-	-	-	3	-	909	-	124	124
Stranraer	1,751	2,322	2,337	49	2	-	6,461	-	4,679	4,679
Port Patrick	-	103	97	-	-	-	200	-	240	240
Dumfries	-	3,903	-	-	-	-	3,903	20	-	20
Kirkcudbright	-	167	880	-	-	-	1,047	-	1,730	1,730
Wigtown	-	410	315	-	32	-	757	-	130	130
TOTAL	78,903	203,160	91,820	394	17,251	14,602	406,130	36,918	40,280	77,198

- - - - - - one Port of Scotland to another, during each of the Ten Years ending 1836—*(continued.)*

Year ending 5th January 1831.

PORTS to which CARRIED.	CORN AND GRAIN.							MEAL AND FLOUR.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.	Peas and Beans.	Malt.	Total of Corn and Grain.	Wheat Flour.	Oatmeal.	Total of Meal and Flour.
	Quarters.	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*
Leith - -	25,106	78,193	33,016	186	6,618	2,033	145,152	4,955	715	4,770
Dunbar -	113	870	15	- -	- -	- -	998	—	—	—
Borrowstonesss -	2,693	7,527	7,594	- -	3,338	2,438	23,590	- -	1,865	1,865
Inverkeithing -	95	3,158	701	- -	- -	- -	3,954	- -	25	25
Grangemouth -	1,700	12,964	9,668	- -	3,517	20	27,869	—	—	—
Alloa - - -	1,347	48,067	6,529	500	876	17	57,336	- -	597	597
Stirling - -	70	- -	75	- -	- -	- -	145	—	—	—
Kirkaldy - -	1,220	1,840	1,886	- -	30	1,775	6,751	—	—	—
Anstruther -	101	- -	80	- -	20	- -	201	165	- -	165
Burnt Island -	- -	1,100	10	- -	- -	- -	1,110	—	—	—
St. Andrews - -	- -	325	- -	- -	- -	- -	325	—	—	—
Dundee - - -	2,885	- -	363	- -	50	15	3,263	45	- -	45
Perth - - -	230	- -	122	- -	- -	- -	352	—	—	—
Montrose - -	90	- -	36	- -	- -	- -	126	- -	175	175
Arbroath - -	- -	- -	897	- -	- -	- -	897	—	—	—
Aberdeen - -	6,390	230	320	- -	38	- -	6,978	8,290	- -	8,290
Peterhead - -	- -	- -	377	- -	- -	- -	377	—	—	—
Banff - - -	- -	58	215	- -	- -	- -	273	585	213	798
Inverness - -	3	314	31	- -	- -	- -	348	200	9,320	9,520
Isle of Skye - -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	10	10
Wick - - -	- -	2	18	- -	- -	18	38	800	7,079	7,879
Thurso - - -	- -	208	37	- -	- -	- -	245	199	367	566
Lerwick - -	2	3	8	- -	- -	- -	13	142	558	700
Kirkwall - -	- -	- -	22	- -	- -	- -	22	247	206	453
Stornoway - -	- -	- -	18	- -	- -	- -	18	54	874	928
Campbeltown -	54	866	127	- -	- -	- -	1,047	2,984	2,951	5,935
Islay - - - -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	125	125
Tarbert - -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	18	100	118
Glasgow - -	54,449	39,847	40,764	57	10,620	2,626	148,363	11,567	3,723	15,290
Greenock - -	686	1,80	103	- -	394	145	3,128	1,540	4,498	6,038
Inverary - -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	35	35
Lochgilphead -	-	- -	75	- -	- -	- -	75	- -	405	405
Oban - - -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1,041	1,041
Tobermory - -	- -	138	- -	- -	- -	- -	138	- -	278	278
Irvine - - -	1,173	1,085	474	- -	114	611	3,457	476	852	1,328
Troon - - -	- -	429	40	- -	- -	- -	469	50	- -	50
Largs - - -	15	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	15	—	—	—
Air - - -	433	95	861	- -	180	58	1,627	644	4,757	5,401
Girvan - -	- -	3	218	8	- -	- -	229	5	1,885	1,890
Stranraer - -	272	35	69	- -	23	- -	399	938	5	943
Dumfries - -	- -	- -	463	- -	- -	- -	463	- -	50	50
TOTAL - -	99,077	199,157	105,232	751	25,818	9,756	439,791	33,004	42,709	75,713

Year ending 5th January 1832.

Leith - - -	36,062	84,059	30,738	108	4,446	3,226	158,639	3,643	1,023	4,666
Dunbar - -	- -	12,60	260	- -	75	- -	1,595	—	—	—
Borrowstoness -	1,499	4,642	4,549	21	1,926	2,862	15,499	- -	55	55
Inverkeithing -	505	1,679	366	- -	- -	335	2,885	- -	466	466
Grangemouth -	1,039	16,677	9,540	- -	2,649	- -	29,905	- -	457	457
Alloa - - -	2,044	50,626	6,838	150	752	5	60,415	- -	438	438
Kirkaldy - -	1,553	7,532	975	- -	45	4,900	15,005	315	60	375
Anstruther - -	46	1,800	- -	21	- -	- -	1,867	395	- -	395
Dundee - -	3,526	178	960	- -	30	188	4,882	- -	8	8
Perth - - -	204	- -	250	- -	- -	- -	454	—	—	—
Montrose - -	279	- -	179	- -	- -	- -	458	113	13	126
Arbroath - -	- -	30	1,541	- -	50	- -	1,621	—	—	—
Aberdeen - -	5,371	1,023	774	- -	140	- -	7,308	9,821	390	10,211
Peterhead - -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	330	60	390
Banff - - -	15	2	82	- -	- -	- -	99	848	- -	848
Inverness - -	- -	1,807	125	- -	- -	93	2,025	315	8,738	9,053
Spey - - -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	25	25
Wick - - -	- -	26	32	- -	- -	- -	58	738	3,600	4,338
Thurso - - -	10	- -	- -	- -	10	- -	20	467	60	527
Lerwick - -	- -	- -	3	- -	- -	- -	3	90	1,663	1,753
Kirkwall - -	- -	- -	- -	35	- -	3	38	153	- -	153
Stornoway - -	- -	17	50	- -	- -	- -	67	236	1,409	1,645
Campbeltown -	4	2,515	42	- -	- -	- -	2,561	3,684	5,145	8,829
Islay - - -	- -	342	- -	- -	- -	- -	342	—	—	—
Glasgow - -	24,899	26,077	30,735	51	6,539	2,705	91,006	11,480	2,230	13,710
Greenock - -	80	1,672	44	- -	10	51	1,857	1,691	8,872	10,563
Oban - - -	- -	- -	400	- -	- -	- -	400	—	—	—
Tobermory - -	- -	280	- -	- -	- -	- -	280	- -	1,375	1,375
Rothesay - -	244	- -	112	- -	- -	- -	356	—	—	—
Irvine - - -	695	532	113	- -	292	188	1,820	554	640	1,194
Troon - - -	- -	114	- -	- -	- -	- -	114	—	—	—
Air - - -	685	32	950	- -	269	41	1,977	774	1,310	2,084
Girvan - - -	- -	11	955	8	- -	- -	974	- -	2,076	2,076
Stranraer - -	143	121	28	- -	18	5	315	1,251	167	1,418
Dumfries - -	- -	- -	1,179	- -	- -	- -	1,179	—	—	—
Kirkcudbright -	- -	106	- -	- -	- -	- -	106	—	—	—
Creetown - -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	20	- -	20
TOTAL - -	78,903	203,160	91,820	394	17,251	14,602	406,130	36,918	40,280	77,198

Appendix No. 27.—Return of the Quantities of Grain and Meal carried Coastwise from - - - - -

Year ending 5th January 1833.

PORTS from which SHIPPED.	CORN AND GRAIN.							MEAL AND FLOUR.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.	Peas and Beans.	Malt.	Total of Corn and Grain.	Wheat Flour.	Oatmeal.	Total of Meal and Flour.
	Quarters.	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Quarter*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*
Leith	4,063	5,873	1,386	40	2,279	-	13,641	4,777	608	5,385
Dunbar	4,910	1,997	2,622	-	2,132	862	12,523	3,782	-	3,782
Borrowstoness	2,744	2,213	68	2	1,850	165	7,042	174	58	232
Inverkeithing	75	2,709	380	-	-	-	3,164	—	—	—
Grangemouth	1,388	251	1,093	-	10	-	2,742	227	274	501
Alloa	981	483	26	-	994	2,296	4,780	1,834	500	2,334
Kirkaldy	787	8,227	1,847	-	169	-	11,030	—	—	—
Anstruther	6,985	10,410	1,239	17	2,873	348	21,872	—	—	—
Dundee	6,511	48,050	3,902	168	1,876	2,404	62,911	12,241	-	12,241
Perth	190	20,036	970	-	1,184	-	22,380	375	-	375
Montrose	1,303	32,167	1,580	-	2,826	-	37,876	1,200	554	1,754
Arbroath	832	10,733	100	-	211	-	11,876	918	-	918
Aberdeen	1,018	9,273	8,794	-	75	597	19,757	1,612	10,163	11,775
Peterhead	-	738	1,917	-	40	-	2,695	45	2,433	2,478
Stonehaven	30	5,613	1,250	-	-	-	6,893	—	—	—
Newburgh	-	1,160	454	-	-	-	1,614	—	—	—
Banff	1,885	9,243	13,898	37	91	-	25,154	20	5,768	5,788
Inverness	5,415	137	95	32	61	-	5,740	94	38	132
Cromarty	7,941	675	2,310	-	121	-	11,047	—	—	—
Findhorn	872	1,134	-	-	-	-	2,006	—	—	—
Lossiemouth	449	104	9	-	-	-	562	—	—	—
Portmahomack	1,952	315	29	30	6	-	2,332	—	—	—
Burghead	2,804	973	68	-	51	-	3,896	—	—	—
Wick	221	370	1,415	-	36	-	2,042	—	—	—
Thurso	242	1,910	2,468	-	404	-	5,024	-	1,447	1,447
Helmsdale	128	1,330	5	-	14	-	1,477	—	—	—
Lerwick	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	531	531
Kirkwall	-	1,945	705	-	12	1,157	3,819	-	438	438
Stornoway	-	139	-	-	-	-	139	-	25	25
Campbeltown	78	50	-	-	562	1,166	1,856	—	—	—
Islay	50	-	1,503	-	95	-	1,648	-	5	5
Glasgow	3,403	1,109	6,168	-	491	11	11,182	5,144	6,908	12,052
Greenock	2,490	168	-	-	-	-	2,658	128	233	361
Tobermory	-	629	-	-	-	-	629	—	—	—
Irvine	2,220	83	1,327	-	74	-	3,704	46	950	996
Air	2,634	59	80	-	139	-	2,912	1,043	1,731	2,774
Girvan	1,777	9	31	-	153	-	1,970	240	2,045	2,285
Stranraer	1,894	3,385	4,105	38	13	-	9,435	10	5,396	5,406
Port Patrick	-	15	314	-	-	-	329	-	97	97
Dumfries	71	3,921	206	-	20	-	4,218	20	1	21
Kircudbright	-	466	617	-	-	-	1,083	-	1,150	1,150
Wigtown	-	109	215	-	1	-	325	-	50	50
Total	68,343	188,211	63,196	364	18,863	9,006	347,983	33,930	41,403	75,333

Year ending 5th January 1834.

Leith	3,358	4,805	530	34	1,671	30	10,428	2,592	210	2,80
Dunbar	5,251	4,377	4,122	15	1,051	445	15,261	957	98	1,055
Borrowstoness	1,043	2,007	18	-	639	340	4,047	-	5	5
Inverkeithing	-	6,544	862	-	-	-	7,406	—	—	—
Grangemouth	948	1,523	105	-	-	-	2,612	—	—	—
Alloa	480	1,902	112	-	2,234	1,635	6,363	967	-	967
Kircaldy	1,184	6,426	1,427	-	502	-	9,539	—	—	—
Anstruther	9,870	15,816	2,967	22	8,078	190	36,943	—	—	—
Dundee	1,117	45,656	425	60	1,107	861	49,226	5,751	-	5,751
Perth	1,224	31,049	1,599	285	3,125	-	37,282	-	1,218	1,218
Montrose	30	31,193	2,146	10	3,462	-	36,841	460	1	461
Arbroath	434	14,722	24	-	773	-	15,953	50	-	50
Aberdeen	23	9,552	2,463	-	213	360	12,611	1,248	7,236	8,484
Peterhead	21	798	1,504	-	171	-	2,494	183	750	933
Stonehaven	70	5,369	358	-	22	-	5,819	—	—	—
Newburgh	-	2,230	900	-	-	-	3,130	-	40	40
Banff	4,093	10,610	8,746	24	330	-	23,803	108	8,966	9,074
Inverness	11,049	30	374	-	295	-	11,748	60	387	447
Cromarty	8,644	694	265	-	242	-	9,845	—	—	—
Findhorn	1,138	620	40	-	11	-	1,809	—	—	—
Lossiemouth	3,128	138	519	-	-	-	3,785	—	—	—
Portmahomack	3,627	568	146	11	57	-	4,409	—	—	—
Burghead	6,575	1,325	94	-	-	-	7,994	—	—	—
Wick	186	202	3,026	-	58	-	3,472	-	103	103
Thurso	171	458	2,432	-	123	-	3,184	-	650	650
Helmsdale	806	918	30	43	40	-	1,837	—	—	—
Lerwick	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	164	164
Kirkwall	-	3,617	1,236	-	30	1,424	6,307	-	50	50
Stornoway	-	-	-	-	-	—	—	—	—	—
Campbeltown	53	-	616	19	688	675	2,051	—	—	—
Islay	-	-	1,240	20	43	-	1,303	-	75	75
Tarbert	12	17	-	-	-	-	29	—	—	—
Glasgow	629	424	126	-	-	125	1,304	3,698	4,665	8,363
Greenock	348	-	85	-	-	-	433	-	600	600
Tobermory	-	346	-	-	-	-	346	—	—	—
Rothesay	15	54	-	-	-	-	69	—	—	—
Irvine	1,071	82	2,546	-	75	-	3,774	1,170	2,888	4,058
Air	1,987	26	140	-	15	-	2,168	1,234	3,466	4,700
Girvan	3,693	-	38	-	132	-	3,863	135	1,435	1,570
Stranraer	2,942	2,506	8,906	47	9	-	14,410	-	6,638	6,638
Port Patrick	-	328	650	-	-	-	978	-	8 0	380
Dumfries	-	7,866	200	-	-	-	8,066	—	—	—
Kircudbright	-	437	648	-	-	-	1,085	-	1,270	1,270
Wigtown	-	1,246	275	7	30	-	1,558	—	—	—
Total	75,256	216,481	51,940	597	25,226	6,085	375,585	18,613	41,295	59 908

one Port of Scotland to another, during each of the Ten Years ending 1836.—(*continued.*)

Year ending 5th January 1833.

PORTS to which CARRIED.	CORN AND GRAIN.							MEAL AND FLOUR		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.	Peas and Beans.	Malt.	Total of Corn and Grain.	Wheat Flour.	Oatmeal.	Total of Meal and Flour.
	Quarters.	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*
Leith	39,844	81,395	37,116	98	5,160	2,680	166,293	6,399	2,301	8,700
Dunbar	125	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	125	—	—	—
Borrowstoness	2,765	4,918	2,063	- -	1,345	157	11,248	227	450	677
Inverkeithing	30	845	220	- -	- -	- -	1,095	10	500	510
Grangemouth	2,030	10,185	2,435	- -	3,140	- -	17,790	350	206	556
Alloa	1,604	41,060	4,224	168	284	- -	47,340	48	3,002	3,050
Kirkaldy	589	7,437	2,612	- -	- -	2,979	13,617	250	399	649
Anstruther	32	300	260	- -	- -	- -	592	1,000	- -	1,000
Dundee	1,902	- -	2,168	- -	26	6	4,102	140	1,855	1,995
Perth	300	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	300	—	—	—
Montrose	1,756	27	171	- -	- -	- -	1,954	113	170	283
Arbroath	- -	- -	1,326	- -	- -	- -	1,326	- -	750	750
Aberdeen	6,348	30	195	20	115	- -	6,708	10,727	- -	10,727
Peterhead	- -	- -	- -	- -	132	- -	132	—	—	—
Banff	30	- -	78	- -	- -	13	121	811	125	936
Inverness	54	1,402	165	- -	- -	16	1,637	650	10,754	11,404
Fort William	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	320	320
Wick	- -	13	115	- -	11	- -	139	869	2,242	3,111
Thurso	- -	- -	30	- -	- -	- -	30	577	- -	577
Lerwick	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	183	3,394	3,577
Kirkwall	- -	- -	- -	40	15	- -	55	211	1,178	1,389
Stornoway	- -	4	- -	- -	- -	- -	4	81	437	518
Campbeltown	- -	2,178	92	- -	4	- -	2,274	2,906	1,983	4,889
Islay	- -	969	- -	- -	- -	- -	969	—	—	—
Glasgow	8,932	35,793	7,242	38	8,052	3,150	63,207	5,571	6,105	11,676
Paisley	65	11	- -	- -	30	- -	106	—	—	—
Greenock	290	1,212	250	- -	9	- -	1,761	1,228	2,840	4,068
Inverary	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	23	23
Lochgilphead	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Oban	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	325	325
Tobermory	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	10	1,458	1,468
Rothesay	90	- -	406	- -	- -	- -	496	—	—	—
Irvine	688	167	657	- -	483	1	1,996	203	15	218
Troon	185	43	- -	- -	- -	- -	228	100	- -	100
Saltcoats	50	- -	243	- -	- -	- -	293	—	—	—
Air	401	130	391	- -	50	- -	972	183	94	227
Girvan	8	15	330	- -	- -	- -	353	- -	422	422
Stranraer	225	67	27	- -	- -	4	323	1,073	- -	1,073
Dumfries	- -	10	380	- -	7	- -	397	10	55	65
TOTAL	68,343	188,211	63,196	364	18,863	9,006	347,983	33,930	41,403	75,333

Year ending 5th January 1834.

Leith	40,569	96,410	25,477	99	9,431	2,076	174,062	482	679	1,161
Dunbar	- -	420	70	- -	- -	- -	490	—	—	—
Borrowstoness	1,770	4,835	571	15	843	420	8,454	—	—	—
Inverkeithing	- -	1,240	200	- -	- -	50	1,490	—	—	—
Grangemouth	611	6,531	1,959	- -	2,514	- -	11,615	260	219	479
Alloa	713	47,144	2,360	350	432	- -	50,999	—	2,082	2,082
Kirkaldy	247	6,490	795	6	29	2,393	9,960	125	- -	125
Anstruther	105	112	- -	- -	- -	- -	217	80	- -	80
Dundee	1,846	- -	1,418	- -	- -	- -	3,264	393	1,836	2,229
Perth	243	4	562	- -	- -	- -	809	—	—	—
Montrose	2,500	86	230	- -	- -	- -	2,816	138	125	263
Arbroath	4	- -	400	- -	- -	- -	404	38	293	331
Aberdeen	11,315	154	410	- -	112	- -	11,991	2,991	- -	2,991
Banff	- -	14	- -	- -	- -	13	27	778	120	898
Inverness	23	633	491	- -	- -	38	1,185	447	11,796	12,243
Fort William	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	30	30
Wick	12	172	120	- -	- -	- -	304	493	338	831
Thurso	15	- -	20	- -	45	- -	80	534	- -	534
Lerwick	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	169	3,373	3,542
Kirkwall	- -	- -	- -	34	- -	- -	34	194	105	299
Stornoway	- -	20	- -	- -	- -	- -	20	18	331	349
Campbeltown	3	3,016	18	- -	- -	125	3,162	2,784	960	3,744
Islay	- -	228	- -	- -	- -	- -	228	—	—	—
Glasgow	14,050	46,293	14,280	93	11,603	890	87,209	6,290	11,538	17,828
Greenock	748	1,819	130	- -	- -	- -	2,697	2,000	2,110	4,110
Lochgilphead	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	200	200
Oban	- -	- -	130	- -	- -	- -	130	- -	1,500	1,500
Tobermory	- -	1	35	- -	- -	- -	36	- -	3,545	3,545
Rothesay	10	- -	467	- -	- -	- -	477	10	- -	10
Irvine	210	305	405	- -	157	80	1,157	—	—	—
Saltcoats	109	- -	332	- -	- -	- -	441	—	—	—
Largs	100	- -	85	- -	- -	- -	185	—	—	—
Air	34	236	528	- -	55	- -	855	43	25	68
Girvan	- -	100	436	- -	- -	- -	536	—	—	—
Stranraer	5	4	11	- -	5	- -	25	346	- -	346
Dumfries	14	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	14	—	—	—
Kirkcudbright	- -	212	- -	- -	- -	- -	212	—	—	—
Wigtown	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	90	90
TOTAL	75,250	216,481	51,940	597	25,226	6,085	375,585	18,613	41,295	59,908

APPENDIX No. 27.—RETURN of the Quantities of GRAIN and MEAL carried Coastwise from - - - - -

Year ending 5th January 1835.

PORTS from which SHIPPED.	CORN AND GRAIN.							MEAL AND FLOUR.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.	Peas and Beans.	Malt.	Total of Corn and Grain.	Wheat Flour.	Oatmeal.	Total of Meal and Flour.
	Quarters.	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*
Leith - - -	9,381	1,970	594	45	3,542	- -	15,532	2,907	538	3,445
Dunbar - - -	4,028	4,666	2,915	- -	2,814	581	15,004	220	- -	220
Borrowstoness -	1,089	3,087	20	22	600	478	5,296	- -	150	150
Inverkeithing - -	49	2,219	185	- -	40	- -	2,493	—	—	—
Grangemouth - -	2,034	597	- -	- -	762	50	3,443	40	190	230
Alloa - - -	329	1,001	201	- -	545	1,053	3,129	343	110	453
Kirkaldy - -	606	6,958	2,340	- -	193	- -	10,097	- -	445	445
Anstruther - -	7,280	16,966	6,435	13	4,386	480	35,560	- -	36	36
Dundee - -	182	45,200	4,778	120	2,512	461	53,253	4,680	550	5,230
Perth - - -	1,034	29,089	3,692	404	3,132	- -	37,351	—	—	—
Montrose - -	- -	23,335	2,839	- -	3,102	- -	29,276	—	—	—
Arbroath - -	- -	11,094	512	4	573	- -	12,183	—	—	—
Aberdeen - -	6	10,367	1,356	- -	- -	238	11,967	1,548	4,587	6,135
Peterhead - -	59	1,374	789	- -	105	- -	2,327	113	1,056	1,169
Stonehaven - -	- -	4,806	100	- -	196	- -	5,102	—	—	—
Newburgh - -	- -	2,000	1,000	- -	- -	- -	3,000	—	—	—
Banff - - -	3,342	8,237	5,992	31	235	- -	17,837	87	12,069	12,156
Inverness - -	7,573	1,295	105	- -	20	- -	8,993	—	—	—
Cromarty - -	8,296	1,007	984	- -	463	- -	10,755	—	—	—
Findhorn - -	2,525	2,561	680	- -	- -	- -	5,766	—	—	—
Lossiemouth - -	786	645	135	- -	- -	- -	1,566	—	—	—
Portmahomack -	1,476	321	229	60	221	- -	2,307	—	—	—
Burghead - -	6,122	1,676	281	18	230	- -	8,327	—	—	—
Wick - - -	38	163	2,934	- -	5	- -	3,140	- -	180	180
Thurso - - -	141	1,283	2,384	- -	211	- -	4,019	—	—	—
Helmsdale - -	265	290	- -	- -	- -	- -	555	—	—	—
Lerwick - -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	110	110
Kirkwall - -	- -	2,662	1,430	- -	- -	1,912	6,004	- -	693	693
Stornoway - -	- -	- -	- -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Campbeltown -	105	145	21	6	1,208	1,816	3,301	—	—	—
Islay - - -	- -	396	439	- -	16	- -	851	- -	6	6
Tarbert - -	- -	- -	- -	- -	13	- -	13	—	—	—
Glasgow - -	721	1,328	1,315	- -	974	369	4,707	5,869	10,500	16,369
Greenock - -	1,360	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1,360	56	804	860
Tobermory - -	- -	487	- -	- -	- -	- -	487	—	—	—
Irvine - - -	950	174	38	- -	4	- -	1,166	153	1,483	1,636
Air - - -	2,409	- -	92	- -	85	- -	2,586	3,427	4,573	8,000
Girvan - - -	3,743	- -	15	- -	258	- -	4,016	747	1,009	1,756
Stranraer - -	2,724	2,787	6,783	13	121	- -	12,428	15	5,193	5,208
Port Patrick - -	- -	45	106	-	- -	- -	151	- -	1,240	1,240
Dumfries - -	- -	10,049	359	10	6	84	10,508	—	—	—
Kirkcudbright -	- -	1,529	258	- -	- -	- -	1,787	10	2,393	2,403
Wigtown - -	93	2,405	987	7	310	- -	3,802	- -	20	20
TOTAL - - -	68,746	204,214	53,323	753	26,887	7,522	361,445	20,215	47,935	68,150

Year ending 5th January 1836.

Leith - - -	10,358	7,615	628	6	3,252	200	22,059	4,640	456	5,096
Dunbar - - -	4,308	5,084	2,569	- -	2,443	425	14,779	1,006	- -	1,006
Borrowstoness -	439	2,168	1,342	- -	1,114	516	5,579	—	—	—
Inverkeithing -	- -	1,291	357	- -	- -	- -	1,648	—	—	—
Grangemouth -	15	1,513	254	- -	464	- -	2,246	—	—	—
Alloa - - -	185	568	58	- -	46	795	1,652	62	- -	62
Kirkaldy - -	713	12,334	2,625	- -	790	- -	16,462	- -	112	112
Anstruther - -	8,340	15,261	5,292	154	5,089	867	35,003	—	—	—
Dundee - -	77	30,750	2,25	206	2,116	456	35,856	6,215	150	6,365
Perth - - -	560	22,763	4,012	535	3,034	- -	30,904	- -	605	605
Montrose - -	- -	26,886	10,002	29	3,946	- -	40,863	885	1,278	2,163
Arbroath - -	88	12,917	389	- -	824	- -	14,218	—	—	—
Aberdeen - -	- -	9,895	3,524	- -	- -	2,023	15,442	3,158	3,269	6,427
Peterhead - -	67	1,400	672	- -	- -	- -	2,139	388	1,799	2,187
Stonehaven - -	- -	4,610	500	- -	100	- -	5,210	—	—	—
Newburgh - -	- -	700	560	- -	- -	- -	1,260	—	—	—
Banff - - -	6,210	10,006	4,307	6	107	- -	20,636	75	6,179	6,254
Inverness - -	1,057	520	40	- -	- -	- -	1,617	—	—	—
Cromarty - -	17,827	1,776	1,052	- -	370	- -	21,025	—	—	—
Findhorn - -	3,558	980	- -	- -	- -	- -	4,538	—	—	—
Lossiemouth - -	1,343	280	- -	- -	- -	- -	1,623	—	—	—
Portmahomack -	3,514	560	- -	- -	- -	- -	4,074	—	—	—
Burghead - -	8,973	1,732	192	37	277	- -	11,211	—	—	—
Wick - - -	466	596	2,715	- -	129	- -	3,906	- -	160	160
Thurso - - -	199	2,649	2,103	- -	197	- -	5,148	- -	1,138	1,138
Helmsdale - -	542	1,113	- -	- -	- -	- -	1,655	—	—	—
Lerwick - -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	15	15
Kirkwall - -	- -	2,911	808	- -	28	1,491	5,238	- -	587	587
Campbeltown -	48	97	141	- -	2,076	1,241	3,603	—	—	—
Islay - - -	- -	314	282	- -	198	50	844	—	—	—
Tarbert - - -	- -	- -	5	- -	20	100	125	—	—	—
Glasgow - -	1,241	1,206	2,710	- -	24	407	5,588	6,961	5,642	12,603
Greenock - -	646	311	- -	- -	1	- -	958	10	915	925
Tobermory - -	- -	818	45	- -	- -	- -	863	—	—	—
Rothesay - -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	100	100
Irvine - - -	328	765	72	- -	- -	- -	1,165	401	450	851
Air - - -	2,759	40	26	- -	102	- -	2,927	2,013	5,932	7,945
Girvan - - -	3,743	141	26	- -	346	- -	4,256	362	518	880
Stranraer - -	3,835	3,464	4,717	20	155	- -	12,191	145	4,808	4,953
Port Patrick - -	- -	31	- -	- -	- -	- -	31	—	—	—
Dumfries - -	- -	8,297	213	- -	27	- -	8,537	—	—	—
Kirkcudbright -	- -	255	80	- -	- -	- -	335	- -	2,080	2,080
Wigtown - -	146	2,712	1,658	- -	488	- -	5,005	225	265	490
TOTAL - - -	18,585	197,297	56,227	993	27,763	8,572	372,416	26,549	36,458	63,004

- - - - - - one Port of Scotland to another, during each of the Ten Years ending 1836—(*continued.*)

Year ending 5th January 1835.

PORTS to which CARRIED.	CORN AND GRAIN.							MEAL AND FLOUR.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.	Peas and Beans.	Malt.	Total of Corn and Grain.	Wheat Flour.	Oatmeal.	Total of Meal and Flour.
	Quarters.	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*
Leith - - -	29,565	88,497	33,205	174	7,169	2,403	161,013	313	493	806
Dunbar - - -	- -	520	- -	- -	- -	- -	520	—	—	—
Borrowstoness -	750	4,856	1,469	- -	1,646	226	8,947	- -	505	505
Inverkeithing -	- -	780	2	- -	4	- -	786	- -	3	3
Grangemouth -	791	7,674	905	- -	3,006	318	12,694	- -	150	150
Alloa - - -	649	36,951	659	498	176	375	39,308	—	—	—
Kirkaldy - -	188	6,358	170	- -	- -	1,400	8,116	—	—	—
Anstruther - -	- -	1,598	- -	- -	181	- -	1,779	—	—	—
Dundee - -	1,953	28	104	15	18	- -	2,118	110	296	406
Montrose - -	1,657	22	- -	- -	- -	- -	1,679	—	—	—
Arbroath - -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	158	- -	158
Aberdeen - -	8,930	462	39	- -	52	80	9,563	1,816	- -	1,816
Banff - - -	6	1	25	- -	- -	- -	32	1,420	- -	1,420
Inverness - -	17	820	170	- -	7	88	1,102	840	8,940	9,780
Wick - - -	150	413	2	- -	- -	- -	565	882	5,281	6,163
Thurso - - -	20	14	42	- -	- -	- -	76	401	703	1,104
Lerwick - -	- -	8	8	- -	- -	4	20	165	3,914	4,079
Kirkwall - -	- -	10	- -	30	- -	- -	40	132	38	170
Stornoway - -	- -	37	- -	- -	4	- -	41	136	284	420
Campbeltown -	- -	1,707	105	- -	2	289	2,103	3,437	4,296	7,733
Islay - - -	- -	231	- -	- -	- -	210	441	—	—	—
Glasgow - -	19,935	49,115	14,516	36	12,962	1,849	98,413	6,513	10,289	16,802
Paisley - - -	75	- -	2	- -	- -	- -	77	—	—	—
Greenock - -	1,601	2,659	269	- -	10	38	4,607	2,252	6,634	8,886
Lochgilphead -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	120	120
Oban - - -	- -	- -	210	- -	- -	- -	210	- -	1,760	1,760
Tobermory - -	- -	130	60	- -	- -	- -	190	- -	2,896	2,896
Rothesay - -	- -	71	- -	- -	- -	- -	71	—	—	—
Irvine - - -	583	760	891	- -	721	158	3,113	74	143	217
Troon - - -	400	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	400	—	—	—
Saltcoats - -	310	- -	90	- -	- -	- -	400	—	—	—
Largs - - -	150	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	150	40	- -	40
Ardrossan - -	275	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	275	16	- -	16
Air - - -	454	170	130	- -	880	- -	1,364	329	105	434
Girvan - - -	189	2	227	- -	- -	- -	418	- -	1,078	1,078
Stranraer - -	15	304	23	- -	- -	- -	342	1,169	- -	1,169
Dumfries - -	- -	13	- -	- -	14	- -	27	12	2	14
Kirkcudbright -	83	- -	- -	- -	- -	84	167	—	—	—
Wigtown - -	- -	3	- -	- -	5	- -	8	—	—	—
TOTAL - - -	68,746	204,214	53,323	753	26,887	7,522	361,445	20,215	47,935	68,150

Year ending 5th January 1836.

Leith - - -	40,456	69,082	27,709	654	7,148	2,821	147,870	1,095	1,807	2,902
Dunbar - - -	- -	472	- -	- -	- -	- -	472	—	—	—
Borrowstoness -	1,346	5,766	1,804	- -	2,536	60	11,512	90	- -	90
Inverkeithing -	- -	1,826	- -	- -	- -	195	2,021	—	—	—
Grangemouth -	326	8,615	1,477	- -	2,990	515	13,923	—	—	—
Alloa - - -	1,016	36,579	2,908	313	829	1,020	42,665	—	—	—
Kirkaldy - -	866	8,735	2,077	- -	108	1,164	12,950	255	100	355
Anstruther - -	- -	- -	100	- -	- -	- -	100	—	—	—
Dundee - - -	5,386	170	484	- -	2	46	6,088	3,489	813	4,302
Perth - - -	- -	- -	230	- -	- -	- -	230	—	—	—
Montrose - -	2,382	1,192	60	- -	- -	12	3,646	—	—	—
Arbroath - -	- -	100	305	- -	- -	6	411	- -	80	80
Aberdeen - -	7,918	602	136	- -	- -	73	8,729	3,110	3	3,113
Banff - - -	- -	2	100	- -	- -	1	103	1,983	53	2,036
Inverness - -	100	2,598	526	- -	- -	550	3,774	545	10,218	10,763
Isle of Skye -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	30	30
Wick - - -	- -	402	50	- -	- -	- -	452	1,108	881	1,989
Thurso - - -	- -	5	20	- -	- -	- -	25	451	87	538
Lerwick - -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	352	3,782	4,134
Kirkwall - -	- -	- -	- -	6	- -	- -	6	202	270	472
Stornoway - -	- -	4	- -	- -	- -	- -	4	105	275	380
Campbeltown -	- -	3,051	25	- -	- -	253	3,329	2,843	2,127	4,970
Islay - - -	- -	300	- -	- -	- -	100	400	10	390	400
Glasgow - -	18,717	52,254	15,928	20	12,031	1,631	100,581	8,081	7,609	15,690
Greenock - -	926	4,020	234	- -	163	124	5,467	1,826	4,482	6,308
Lochgilphead -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	40	40
Oban - - -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	145	63	208
Tobermory - -	- -	10	150	- -	- -	- -	160	- -	1,813	1,813
Rothesay - -	- -	- -	78	- -	- -	- -	78	—	—	—
Irvine - - -	625	806	1,218	- -	892	- -	3,541	22	372	394
Saltcoats - -	237	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	237	—	—	—
Air - - -	1,184	314	277	- -	1,007	- -	2,782	143	438	581
Girvan - - -	26	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	26	- -	725	725
Stranraer - -	74	10	91	- -	52	1	228	69	- -	69
Dumfries - -	- -	186	240	- -	5	- -	431	—	—	—
Kirkcudbright -	- -	178	- -	- -	- -	- -	178	—	—	—
TOTAL - - -	81,585	197,279	56,227	993	27,763	8,572	372,419	26,546	36,554	63,100

ABSTRACT of the preceding ACCOUNT; showing the TOTAL QUANTITIES of GRAIN, MEAL, and FLOUR carried Coastwise from one Port of *Scotland* to another in each of the Ten Years ending 5th January 1836.

YEARS ending 5 January	CORN AND GRAIN.							MEAL AND FLOUR.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.	Peas and Beans.	Malt.	TOTAL of Corn & Grain.	Wheat Flour.	Oatmeal.	TOTAL of Meal and Flour.
	Quarters.	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Quarters.*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*	*Cwts.*
1827 - - -	66,099	122,177	65,326	764	16,544	10,802	281,712	38,389	55,248	93,637
1828 - - -	77,342	135,931	65,096	2,072	14,223	11,783	306,447	63,525	57,234	120,759
1829 - - -	72,780	185,959	70,945	1,946	20,683	14,486	366,799	38,471	61,466	99,937
1830 - - -	66,260	154,017	67,201	673	26,889	13,498	328,538	37,892	21,197	59,089
1831 - - -	99,077	199,157	105,232	751	25,818	9,756	439,791	33,004	42,709	75,713
1832 - - -	78,903	203,160	91,820	394	17,251	14,602	406,130	36,918	40,280	77,198
1833 - - -	68,343	188,211	63,196	364	18,863	9,006	347,983	33,930	41,403	75,333
1834 - - -	75,256	216,481	51,940	597	25,226	6,085	375,585	18,613	41,295	59,908
1835 - - -	68,746	204,214	53,323	753	26,887	7,522	361,445	20,215	47,935	68,150
1836 - - -	81,585	197,279	56,227	993	27,783	8,572	372,419	26,546	36,458	63,004

Inspector-General's Office,
Custom-House, London, 6 August 1836.

William Irving,
Inspector-General of Imports and Exports.

619

Appendix, No. 28.

PRICES of WHEAT and BARLEY at *Dantzig*, *Hamburg* and *Rotterdam* during the following Periods.

DANTZIG.

Years.	WHEAT.	s.	d.	BARLEY.	s.	d.
1826	Yearly average	21	8	Yearly average	12	4
1827	„	22	3	„	14	7
1828	„	40	2	„	12	8
1829	„	43	10	„	11	2
1830	„	39	3	„	12	6
1831	„	45	6	„	18	4
1832	„	38	–	„	16	–
1833	„	30	–	„	10	8
1834	„	25	–	„	11	–
1835	„	22	9	„	13	4
	Decennial average	32	10		13	4 nearly.

HAMBURG.

1826	Yearly average	20	–	Yearly average	11	3
1827	„	26	–	„	18	–
1828	„	35	–	„	16	–
1829	„	40	–	„	16	6
1830	„	35	–	„	17	–
1831	„	41	–	„	22	
1832	„	35	–	„	18	4
1833	„	26	–	„	14	–
1834	„	22	6	„	12	–
1835	„	21	6	„	15	–
	Decennial average	30	2		16	–

ROTTERDAM.

1826	Yearly average	25	6	Yearly average	18	–
1827	„	39	1	„	22	1
1828	„	38	6	„	19	6
1829	„	43	11	„	19	–
1830	„	43	9	„	19	–
1831	„	52	6	„	25	6
1832	„	40	7	„	23	8
1833	„	32	7	„	16	7
1834	„	31	9	„	16	9
1835	„	29	11	„	19	11
	Decennial average	37	9		20	–

Board of Trade.

J. D. Hume.

Appendix, No. 29.

A RETURN from the POOR LAW COMMISSIONERS for *England* and *Wales*, showing the Amount of MONEY expended for the RELIEF of the POOR, in SUITS of LAW, REMOVAL of PAUPERS, &c., in the following Counties, in the Years ended 25th March 1834, 1835 and 1836, respectively, specifying the Amount of Decrease in 1835 and 1836, as compared with 1834; also the Amount of Money expended in 1835 and 1836 for purposes other than the Relief of the Poor, showing the Decrease in the latter compared with the former Year:—

COUNTIES.	RELIEF of the POOR In the Years ended the 25th of March,			Decrease in 1835, compared with 1834.	Decrease in 1836, compared with 1834.	Suits of Law; the Removal of Paupers, &c., in the Years ended 25th March,		Decrease in 1836, compared with 1834.	Purposes other than Relief of the Poor in the Years ended 25th March,		Decrease in 1836, compared with 1835.	Total Amount of Decrease in 1836.
	1834.	1835.	1836.			1834.	1836.		1835.	1836.		
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Bedford - - -	77,819	66,446	46,524	11,373	31,295	1,866	735	1,131	5,864	3,088	2,776	35,202
Berks - - -	100,183	86,435	65,343	13,748	34,840	3,458	2,001	1,457	11,597	9,700	1,897	38,194
Buckingham - -	124,200	106,100	74,436	18,100	49,764	3,140	2,176	964	12,543	8,118	4,425	55,153
Cambridge - -	96,497	86,454	74,808	10,043	21,689	3,427	2,413	1,014	10,561	8,273	2,288	24,991
Dorset - - -	84,293	76,091	68,019	8,202	16,274	2,635	1,798	837	6,999	6,930	69	17,180
Essex - - -	239,946	210,046	185,395	29,900	54,551	6,898	5,444	1,454	23,716	20,700	3,016	59,021
Hertford - - -	85,799	70,998	59,369	14,801	26,430	2,057	1,402	655	12,187	7,559	4,628	31,713
Kent - - -	343,878	297,098	247,930	46,780	95,948	15,340	9,384	5,956	47,743	40,127	7,616	109,520
Norfolk - - -	306,787	273,425	230,762	33,362	76,025	9,535	6,697	2,838	29,322	25,844	3,478	82,341
Oxford - - -	120,616	106,640	77,322	13,976	43,294	4,441	1,823	2,618	11,695	7,167	4,528	50,440
Southampton - -	203,466	174,418	141,934	29,048	61,532	6,546	3,504	3,042	22,251	18,485	3,766	68,340
Suffolk - - -	245,509	224,094	187,896	21,415	57,613	7,746	5,722	2,024	19,775	15,885	3,890	63,527
Sussex - - -	246,626	210,701	161,589	35,925	85,037	7,873	4,732	3,141	30,937	24,777	6,160	94,338
Wilts - - -	173,925	161,449	133,472	12,476	40,453	3,587	2,677	910	15,888	13,672	2,216	43,579
York, North - -	75,810	68,861	61,639	6,949	14,171	3,015	2,607	408	7,888	7,620	268	14,847
TOTALS - -	2,525,354	2,219,256	1,816,438	306,098	708,916	81,564	53,115	28,449	268,966	217,945	51,021	788,386

Somerset House,
August 1, 1836.

Edwin Chadwick,
Secretary.

[*N. B.*—In the following Index, the *Figures* following the Names refer to the Number of the Question in the *Evidence*, and *App.* to the page of *Appendix*; the *Numerals I., II., III.*, referring to the *Appendix* to the *First*, *Second* or *Third* Reports respectively.]

ANALYSIS OF INDEX.

I.—LIST of the PRINCIPAL HEADINGS contained in the following INDEX, with the Page of the INDEX at which they will be respectively found.

II.—LIST of the COUNTIES from which WITNESSES examined, with the NAMES of the WITNESSES and the NUMBER of the QUESTIONS of their EVIDENCE.

III.—NAMES of WITNESSES examined on particular Subjects bearing on AGRICULTURAL DISTRESS, with the NUMBER of the QUESTIONS of their EVIDENCE.

I.—ALPHABETICAL LIST of the PRINCIPAL HEADINGS.

	Page of Index.
AGRICULTURAL DISTRESS:	
1. *Comparison of the present with that of former years*	1
2. *Extent of the present Distress*	1
3. *To what districts confined*	1
4. *To what soils confined*	1
5. *Causes of the present Distress*	1
6. *Remedies suggested*	2
AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS:	
1. *Employment of*	2
2. *Improved and present prosperous condition of*	3
3. *Comparative condition of, with high prices and high wages, and the contrary*	3
4. *Comparative condition of, as regards wages, and the prices of provisions*	3
Agricultural Produce	4
Agricultural Prosperity	4
Agriculture	4
Allotment System	4
America	5
Assessed Taxes	7
AVERAGES:	
1. *Present mode of taking them, and opinions for and against an alteration*	8
2. *Extent to which affected by fictitious sales*	8
Bank of England Notes	9
Bank Restriction Act	10
BANKS, COUNTRY:	
1. *Banking Business*	10
2. *Accommodation to Farmers*	10
BARLEY:	
I. *Price of Barley:*	
1. Present price, how far satisfactory, and price that would be remunerative	11
2. Causes of the rise in price	11
3. Comparison with the price of Wheat	11
II. *Quality of Barley*	11
III. *Growth of Barley:*	
1. Extended growth of; substitution of, for Wheat	11
2. Description of land fit for the growth	12
3. Acreable produce; good or deficient crops	12
IV. *Irish and Foreign Importation*	12

I.—Alphabetical List of the Principal Headings—*continued.*

Barley—continued. Page of Index.

V. *Allowing the unrestricted use of Barley by Farmers as a means of relief.*

1. Advantages of - - - - - - - - - - - - 12
2. Impracticability and disadvantages of - - - - - - 12

Beans - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - 13

Beer:

1. *Generally* - - - - - - - - - - - - - 13
2. *Act for the sale of Beer* - - - - - - - - - - 13
3. *Beer Duty* - - - - - - - - - - - - 13
4. *Beer Shops* - - - - - - - - - - - - 14

Bog Land, Ireland - - - - - - - - - - - - - - 18

Bonded Corn:

1. *Quantity of Corn in bond generally, and at Liverpool and Plymouth* - - 18
2. *Evils of the system of bonding Corn* - - - - - - - - - 18
3. *Advantages that would result from allowing Bonded Wheat to be ground into Flour for exportation, and from the renewal of the Grinding Act* - - 19
4. *Objections to grinding Corn in bond, and to bonding Mills* - - - - 19
5. *Liverpool plan for the liberation of Bonded Corn, advantages and disadvantages* 19
6. *Plymouth Plan for the liberation of Bonded Corn, advantages and disadvantages* 19

Bone Manure - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - 19

Bread - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - 22

Bullion - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - 25

Capital:

1. *Amount of Capital required for farming, and Interest that should be received thereon* - - - - - - - - - - - - - 29
2. *Possession of Capital by Farmers* - - - - - - - - - 30
3. *Diminution of Capital, and nature of outgoings paid out of it* - - - 30
4. *Capital laid out in the improvement of Land, and return in consequence* - - 30
5. *Employment of Capital in Ireland in improving Tillage Lands, or in reclaiming Bog Lands* - - - - - - - - - - - - 30

Cash Payments - - - - - - - - - - - - - - 31

Cattle:

1. *Advantages of Stock for farming* - - - - - - - - - 32
2. *Price of Cattle* - - - - - - - - - - - - 32
3. *Use of Wheat and malted Corn for feeding Cattle* - - - - - 32
4. *Scotch mode of feeding Cattle* - - - - - - - - - 32

Circulating Medium - - - - - - - - - - - - - 33

Clay Lands:

1. *Distress on, causes and extent* - - - - - - - - - 34
2. *Bad condition of Farmers on, and want of profit* - - - - - 34
3. *Good condition of Farmers on, who are farming with a profit* - - - 34
4. *Whether a possibility of letting Clay Lands, and difficulty of their paying Rent at present prices* - - - - - - - - - - - - 34
5. *Price of Wheat at which they can be cultivated, or will be thrown out of cultivation; effect of the latter, and consequent application of the Land* - - 35
6. *Growth of Barley on* - - - - - - - - - - - 35
7. *Produce of Clay Lands, course of cropping, and advantages of dry seasons* - 35
8. *Extent to which they can be improved; necessity for draining* - - - 35

Clover Seed:

1. *Quantity sown, produce per acre; preference of English or foreign Seed* - - 36
2. *Duty on, and advantages or disadvantages of abolishing or reducing it* - - 36

Commercial Distress - - - - - - - - - - - - - 36

Consumption of Wheat - - - - - - - - - - - - - 37

Continent - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - 37

Contracts - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - 37

Corn Laws:

1. *Effect of the Corn Laws generally, and opinions for and against alteration* - 38
2. *Advantages of the present Corn Laws* - - - - - - - - 39
3. *Disadvantages of the present Corn Laws* - - - - - - - - 39
4. *Duty on Corn, and alterations proposed* - - - - - - - - 39
5. *Manner in which the Corn Laws affect prices* - - - - - - 39

I.—Alphabetical List of the Principal Headings—*continued.*

	Page of Index.
Corn Rents:	
1. *Advantages of Corn Rents*	40
2. *Mode by which Corn Rents are fixed*	40
3. *Objection to Corn Rents*	40
Corn Returns:	
1. *Mode in which they are made up, and how far they are correct*	40
2. *Opinions in favour and against growers making Returns*	40
County Rate:	
1. *Rate of, per acre, whether high or low, increase or decrease*	41
2. *Management of, in different Counties, and whether its abolition would be an advantage*	42
3. *Difficulties with regard to the levying and management, and alterations suggested*	42
Cropping	43
Cultivation:	
I. *Deteriorated or stationary Cultivation, and causes*	45
II. *Improved Cultivation:*	
1. In England	45
2. In Ireland	45
3. In Scotland	45
III. *Expense of Cultivation:*	
1. Generally	46
2. Statements laid before the Committee	
i. *In England and Wales*	46
ii. *In Scotland*	46
Currency:	
1. *Effect of alterations in the Currency at different periods*	47
2. *Proposed alterations in the Currency*	47
3. *How far Agricultural Distress and low prices caused by alterations in the Currency*	47
4. *Effects of causing a rise in prices by an action on the Currency*	47
Debt, National	49
Distress	49
Draining:	
1. *Extent to which adopted*	50
2. *Advantages of*	50
3. *Expense per acre, and proportion borne by the Landlord*	50
4. *Different modes of Draining*	50
5. *Advantage of Furrow Draining, and expense*	50
6. *Necessity for, in Ireland*	51
Emigration	53
Farmers:	
1. *Comparative condition of, at different periods*	54
2. *Distress of*	55
3. *Comparative prosperity of*	55
4. *In Ireland*	55
5. *In Scotland*	56
Farming Expenses	56
Farms:	
1. *Size of Farms and description of Soil*	57
2. *Bad condition of Farms*	57
3. *Extent of Farms untenanted or thrown out of cultivation*	57
4. *Facilities of letting Farms, or difficulties in the way of letting*	57
Fen Lands	58
Fixed Duty on the Import of Corn:	
1. *Advantages of a Fixed Duty*	59
2. *Disadvantages of*	59
3. *Effect of, on price*	59
4. *Effect of, in throwing Land in England out of cultivation*	59
5. *Effect of, in increasing growth of Corn on the Continent for the English market*	59
6. *Doubts as to a Fixed Duty being maintained in times of scarcity*	60
7. *Different amounts of Fixed Duty as proposed*	60

I.—Alphabetical List of the Principal Headings—*continued.*

	Page of Index.
Flax:	
1. *Necessity for a protecting duty on*	60
2. *Possibility of cultivating it, and whether deteriorating to the Land*	61
3. *Extension of the cultivation of latterly*	61
Flour	61
Foreign Corn	61
Four Course Husbandry	62
France	62
Gold	64
Gold Standard	64
Gold and Silver Standard conjointly	65
Grass Land:	
1. *Increased produce of; necessity for a mixture of Grass and Arable, mode of cultivation, &c.*	66
2. *Extent to which the system of ploughing up Grass Lands has been carried*	66
Graziers	66
Growth of Wheat:	
1. *Comparative growth, and consumption*	67
2. *Comparative growth formerly and at present*	67
3. *Increase in the quantity grown in the last three years*	67
4. *Decrease in the quantity grown in the last year*	67
5. *In Ireland*	67
6. *In Scotland*	67
Harvests:	
1. *State of, in different years*	70
2. *State of Harvests since* 1832	70
3. *Expected crop of* 1836	70
4. *Effect of seasons on Harvests*	70
5. *Effect of good Harvests on price*	71
Interest	80
Ireland, introduction of Poor Laws into	80
Irish Banking System	80
Irish Cattle	80
Irish Corn:	
1. *Growth of Corn in Ireland, and whether any prospect of its increase*	81
2. *Price and quality of Irish Corn*	81
3. *Imports from Ireland, and bad effects on English Farmers*	81
Irish Labourers	81
Irish Produce	82
Joint Stock Banks	83
Labour	84
Land	85
Landlords:	
1. *Condition of Landlords*	85
2. *Extent of their assistance in improvements*	85
3. *Extent to which Farms have been taken possession of by them*	86
4. *In Ireland*	86
5. *In Scotland*	86
Land-Tax	86
Leases	88
Light Lands	88
Lime	88
Loans	89
Local Taxation	89

625

I.—Alphabetical List of the Principal Headings—*continued.*

	Page of Index.
Malt Duty:	
1. *Generally, and amount of revenue derived from it*	91
2. *Excise regulations as affecting Maltsters*	91
3. *Advantages and disadvantages of its repeal*	91
4. *Objections to proposed equivalents for its repeal*	91
5. *Effect of its repeal on the growth and consumption of Barley*	92
6. *Advantages and disadvantages of a reduction, and amount proposed to prevent evasion of the duty*	92
Manufacturing Districts	92
Manufacturing Interest	93
Manure	93
Meat	94
Mortgages	95
Mution	97
Oats	98
One-pound Notes	100
Panic	100
Paper Currency	101
Pasture Land	102
Ploughing	103
Poor Law Amendment Act:	
1. *Advantages of*	104
2. *Evils of*	104
Poor Rates:	
1. *Rate of, and whether increase or decrease therein*	105
2. *Inequality of Assessment, and different modes of payment suggested*	105
3. *In Scotland*	105
Population	105
Potatoes:	
1. *Increase in the growth of, and manner it affects the price of Wheat*	106
2. *Growth of, in Scotland*	106
Price of Corn:	
1. *Price of Corn in former years*	107
2. *Price of Corn at present*	107
3. *Price that is or is not remunerating*	107
4. *Price that may be maintained under the present Corn Laws, and prices of Foreign Corn*	108
5. *Comparative Price of Wheat and other Corn*	108
6. *Causes of low Prices*	108
7. *Bad effect of the present low Prices on the condition of Farmers*	109
8. *Late rise in Prices, and causes*	109
9. *Effect of a rise on the condition of Farmers and the public generally*	110
10. *Effect of demand and supply in Price*	110
11. *Effect of alterations in the Currency on price*	110
12. *Papers laid before the Committee*	111
Produce of Corn	111
Profit and Loss	112
Purchase of Land	113
Quality of Wheat	113
Railroads	115
Rape Dust, Rape Cake and Rape Seed	115
Rent:	
1. *Amount of Rent per acre*	116
2. *Increase that has taken place in Rent*	116
3. *Extent to which reduction has taken place, and how far sufficient*	116
4. *Condition of Farmers as regards Rent*	117
5. *Payment of Rent*	117
6. *Effect of altering the currency on Rent*	117
7. *Effect of diminished prices on Rent*	117
8. *Corn Rents*	118

I.—Alphabetical List of the Principal Headings—*continued.*

	Page of Index.
Rot:	
1. *Extent of the Rot, and how far recovered from*	120
2. *Advantages to Farmers on those farms not visited with it*	121
Scotch Banking System	126
Scotch Cattle	126
Scotch Husbandry	127
Scotch One-pound Notes	127
Sheep	129
Silver Standard:	
1. *Advantages and disadvantages of a Silver Standard*	130
2. *Whether a greater stock of Silver than Gold likely to be wanted*	131
3. *Price of Silver, and whether it should be fixed*	131
4. *Effect of a Silver Standard on money contracts and prices*	131
Speculation:	
1. *Generally*	133
2. *In Corn*	133
Spring Crops	135
Standard of Value	135
Statistics	136
Stock of Corn on Hand:	
1. *Diminution of Stock on Hand*	136
2. *Extent of the Stock on Hand in some cases showing an increase*	137
Taxation:	
1. *Taxes pressing on Agriculture which it would be desirable to remit*	138
2. *Manner in which altered Currency has affected Taxation*	138
Tenantry:	
1. *Extent to which changes in Tenantry have taken place*	139
2. *Condition of Tenantry*	139
Thrashing Machines	139
Tithes:	
1. *Rate and amount of Tithe and Composition for Tithe; bad effects of Tithes; Tithe in kind*	141
2. *Advantages and disadvantages of a Commutation for Tithes*	141
3. *Opinion upon the proposed Tithe Bill*	141
Tradesmen	142
Turnips	142
Upland Farms	143
Wages:	
1. *Rate of Wages, and whether increase or reduction therein*	144
2. *Comparison between Wages and price of Provisions*	144
3. *Effect of altering prices on Wages*	144
4. *Practice of paying Wages in money or in kind*	145
War:	
1. *Prosperity during the War, and whether advantageous or otherwise*	145
2. *Effect of the rise in Prices during the War and fall since*	146
3. *State of the Currency during the War, and its effect on Prices*	146
Waste Lands	146
Weight of Wheat	146
Wheat	147
Wold Lands	147
Wool:	
1. *Generally*	148
2. *Prices of Wool, and causes of the increase*	148

II.—LIST

627

II.—LIST of the COUNTIES from which WITNESSES examined, with the NAMES of the WITNESSES, and the NUMBER of the QUESTIONS of their EVIDENCE.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

ENGLAND.

BEDFORDSHIRE - - *Bennett*, Thomas, 8180–8380.

BERKS - - - - - - *Houghton*, John, 671–1340.*

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED, *Bell*, William, 11820–12085, 12380; *Langhorn*, John, 7550–7777, 8911–9044.

BIRMINGHAM - - - *Muntz*, George Frederick, 16327–16691; *Sturge* Joseph, 7161–7308.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE - *Brickwell*, John, 305–670; *Cortis*, John, 1746–1916; *Cox*, William, 14111–14251; *Houghton*, John, 671–1340;* *Morton*, Henry, 3642–3989; *Rolfe*, John, 1338–1745.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE - *Thurnall*, William, 2263–2626.

DEVONSHIRE - - - *Frean*, George, 15252–15359.

ESSEX - - - - - - *Babbs*, Robert, 3202–3424; *Kemp*, John, 1917–2262; *Page*, Charles, 2627–2833; *Parker*, Christopher Comyns, 12382–12637.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE - *Crowther*, William, 12768–13116, 13293–13387; *Hall*, George Webb, 4872–5045; *Sturge*, Joseph, 7161–7308.

HAMPSHIRE - - - *Stares*, Robert Hatch, 11493–11819.

HERTFORDSHIRE - - *Morton*, Henry, 3642–3989.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE - *Bowyer*, Thomas, 3425–3641.

KENT - - - - - - *Cramp*, John, 9478–9592; *Neave*, Thomas, 9333–9477.

LANCASHIRE - - - *Hodgson*, David, 6321–6680; *Sanders*, Joseph, 5993*–6320, 6681–7160; *Scott*, James, 5046–5317.

LEICESTERSHIRE - - *Ellis*, John, 10696–10989.

LINCOLNSHIRE - - *Arnall*, Joseph Cook, 9593–9628; *Atkinson*, Robert John, 5818–5993; *Byron*, Samuel, 8381–8443; *Calthrop*, George, 7778–8179; *Iles*, Francis, 7309–7549.

LIVERPOOL - - - - *Hodgson*, David, 6321–6680; *Sanders*, Joseph, 5993*–6320, 6681–7160; *Scott*, James, 5046–5317.

MIDDLESEX - - - *Morton*, Henry, 3642–3989; *Sherborn*, Francis, 3990–4143; *Tillyer*, James, 4144–4268.

NORFOLK - - - - *Fison*, James, 12638–12766.
NOTTINGHAM - - - *Stevenson*, Richard, 13051–13116.
SHROPSHIRE - - - *Bickerton*, Samuel, 8659–8910.
PLYMOUTH - - - - *Frean*, George, 15252–15359.
SOMERSETSHIRE - - *Hancock*, John, 11279–11492.
SUFFOLK - - - - *Cooper*, James Grindling, 5614–5817.
SURREY - - - - - *Smallpiece*, George, 2834–3201.

SUSSEX - - - - - *Boniface*, Thomas, 13117–13293, 13827–13846; *Ellman*, John, 4498–4871; *Freeland*, Joseph, 14787–14969; *Goodman*, Samuel, 10990–11083.

THANET, ISLE OF - - *Cramp*, John, 9478–9592.

WARWICK - - - - *Crowther*, William, 13293–13387; *Umbers*, William, 8444–8658.

YORKSHIRE - - - - *Howard*, Charles, 5318–5613.

WALES.

GLAMORGAN - - - *David*, Evan, 4269–4497.

II.—List of the Counties from which Witnesses examined—*continued.*

IRELAND.

Ireland, generally - *Brassington*, Richard, 14589–14786; *Clarke*, Rev. Charles, 13847–13942; *Sturge*, Joseph, 7161–7308.

Armagh - - - - - *Blacker*, William, 15360–15569.

Kildare - - - - - *Shawe*, Edward Silvester, 14252–14508.

SCOTLAND.

Aberdeen - - - - *Walker*, David, 10503–10695.

Ayrshire - - - - *Brown*, William, 12086–12381.

Dumfries - - - - *Church*, James, 13388–13595.

Haddington - - - *Brodie*, John, 10235–10502; *Hope*, Robert, 9629–9957.

Kincardineshire - *Menzies*, William, 13943–14110; *Robertson*, George, 13596–13826.

Kinross-shire - - *Menzies*, William, 13943–14110.

Lothian, East - - *Bell*, William, 11820–12085, 12380; *Howden*, Andrew, 9958–10234.

Perth - - - - - - *Menzies*, William, 13943–14110; *Oliphant*, Lawrence, M. P., 11084–11278; *Smith*, James, 14970–15251.

Roxburghshire - - *M'Dougal*, Archibald, 14509–14588.

III.—NAMES of Witnesses examined on particular subjects bearing on Agricultural Distress, with the Number of the Questions of their Evidence.

Agricultural Improvements: *Loch*, James, M. P., 16326. *Smith*, James, 14970–15251.

Bonded Corn, Plans of liberating: *Frean*, George, 15252–15359. *Hayes*, John, 17294–17501. *Hodgson*, David, 6321–6680. *Ruding*, Rogers, 17075–17293. *Sanders*, Joseph, 5993*–6320, 6681–7160.

Corn Returns: *Arnall*, Joseph Cook, 9593–9628. *Jacob*, William, 1–304. *Pooley*, George, 9242–9332.

Currency, Gold and Silver Standard, Joint Stock Banks, &c.: *Ashburton*, Lord, 17003–17074, 17503–17772. *Burgess*, Henry, 15918–16217. *Calthrop*, George, 7778–8179. *Haggard*, William Debonnaire, 16218–16325. *Hodgson*, David, 6321–6689. *Langhorn*, John, 7550–7777, 8911–9044. *Muntz*, George Frederick, 16327–16691. *Radnor*, Earl of, 16691–17002. *Sanders*, Joseph, 5993*–6320, 6681–7160. *Spooner*, Richard, 15568–15917. *Umbers*, William, 8444–8658.

Foreign and Irish Corn, Importation of: *Hayes*, John, 17294–17501. *Hodgson*, David, 6321–6680. *Ruding*, Rogers, 17075–17293. *Sanders*, Joseph, 5993*–6320, 6681–7160. *Scott*, James, 5046–5317. *Sturge*, Joseph, 7161–7308.

Irish Poor: *Clarke*, Rev. C., 13847–13942.

Land Tax: *Wood*, John, and William *Garnett*, 9045–9145.

Malt Tax: *Dunlop*, Archibald, 9146–9202. *Hetherington*, William, 9203–9241.

629

INDEX.

[*N.B.*—In the following INDEX, the *Figures* following the Names refer to the Number of the Question in the EVIDENCE; and *App.* to the page of the APPENDIX.]

A.

ACCOMMODATION. See *Agricultural Distress*, 5; *Agricultural Loan Bank. Banks, Country*, 2. *Loans. Provincial Banks. Scotch Banking System.*

Accommodation Bills. See *Banks, Country*, 2.

Acreable Produce. See *Produce of Wheat. Statistics.*

Advances. See *Joint Stock Banks.*

Agistment Stock. Is in some few cases taken by the farmers in Essex, *Page* 2712.
See also *Cattle, Sheep.*

Agricultural Implements. Improvements in, cause produce to be brought cheaper to market than formerly, *Iles* 7535–7540.

AGRICULTURAL DISTRESS.
1. *Comparison of the present with that of former periods.*
2. *Extent of the present distress.*
3. *To what Districts confined.*
4. *To what Soils confined.*
5. *Causes of the present Distress.*
6. *Remedies suggested.*

1. *Comparison of the present with that of former periods.*
Distress of 1828–1831 caused by wet seasons and deficient crops, *Kemp* 1945——There has been a continued depression, a loss of capital and ruin to farmers since 1833, *Rolfe* 1616–1622——There has been no amelioration in agriculture since 1833, *Cortis* 1838–1841——The agricultural interest was, twenty years ago, far superior to the present time, *Bowyer* 3519——Farmers generally not in so good a situation as some years ago; at Bedfont. *Sherborn* 4009, 4010——Farming interest progressively worse since 1833, *Howard* 5327——Not worse off than two years ago, *Ellis* 10720——Depression of the agricultural interest at present, which might have been as great during a portion of the American war, *Burgess* 15958–15964.

2. *Extent of the present Distress.*
Insecurity of the agricultural interest the subject of great complaint, *Hall* 4994——Large and small farmers both feel the present distress, *Rolfe* 1367–1371——Great distress among farmers in Glamorganshire, *David* 4273.
See also *Farmers*, 2.

3. *To what Districts confined.*
Exists more in Buckinghamshire than in other counties; in some parts of Huntingdonshire it is very great, *Houghton* 697——Is more in the country than in towns in Ireland, *Clarke* 13935–13941.

4. *To what Soils confined.*
Distressed condition of farmers, particularly on poor lands, *Cortis* 1801–1807——On wet clay lands, *Brickwell* 327; *Houghton* 692–694, 715–724, 1063–1369——Depressed condition of farmers on strong soils on Lord Tankerville's estate in Northumberland, *Langhorn* 7552, 7553.

5. *Causes of the present Distress.*
Low price of wheat, *Brickwell* 319; *Houghton* 1012–1017; *Rolfe* 1347, 1348; *Kemp* 1947–1949, 1977, 1978; *Page* 2683, 2828–2832; *Bowyer* 3536–3539; *Morton* 3657–3663, 3755; *Sherborn* 4040; *Tillyer* 4196–4200; *Ellman* 4749–4755; *Hall* 4969–4973; *Scott* 5148–5155; *Sanders* 6796, 6797; *Calthrop* 7904; *Bickerton* 8705; *Stares* 11498, 11499; *Hancock* 11340; *Fison* 12646–12649; *Earl of Radnor* 16947–16949——High or war rents, *Page* 2828–2832; *Fison* 12646–12649; *Earl of Radnor* 16777, 16788, 16947–16949——High wages, *Calthrop* 7904——Burthen of taxation, *Calthrop* 7904–7908——Inefficiency of the Corn Laws, *Umbers* 8522; *Parker* 12595–12604——Redundancy of produce, *Jacob* 73–75, 99–103; *Hall* 4998–5000; *Hodgson* 6380–6385; *Langhorn* 7580–7588——*Blacker* 15502——Want of speculation in corn, *Scott* 5148–5155——Contraction of the currency, *Thurnall* 2268; *Ellman* 4749–4755; *Scott* 5148–5155; *Umbers* 8522; *Ellis* 10811–10813; *Goodman* 10997, 10998; *Blacker* 15502——Want of banking accommodation, *Kemp* 2208–2213; *Thurnall* 2517–2532, 2605–2615

AGRICULTURAL DISTRESS—5. *Causes of the present Distress*—continued.

2623–2626; *Scott* 5129–5144, 5148–5155——Want of intelligence among the bulk of farmers, *Fison* 12665, 12666——Or not attending to their own business, *Oliphant* 11098 ——In Ireland is from the short crop of potatoes, and the old ones becoming bad before the new ones come in, *Clarke* 13935–13941.

See also *Prices of Corn*, 7.

6. *Remedies suggested.*

High prices, *Smallpiece* 2877, 2878; *Sanders* 6068——Repeal of the Malt Tax, *Bowyer* 3464; *Robertson* 13629-13635——Allowing the free use of barley for malting, *Brickwell* 340, 342, 345, 347, 501, 502, 557–560, 572, 579, 597–599; *Houghton* 701–709, 750, 797–802; *Rolfe* 1412–1417, 1575–1577; *Cortis* 1787–1791, 1868–1871; *Kemp* 1979–1989, 1998–2000, 2059–2061, 2070–2074; *Thurnall* 2458–2466; *Morton* 3694–3698, 3987–3989; *Sherborn* 4053–4056, 4083; *Tillyer* 4202–4205; *Sanders* 6803–6806, 6812–6818; *Umbers* 8575–8578; *Neave* 9368–9372 ——Liberating bonded corn for grinding into flour for exportation, *Sanders* 6050–6059, 7034–7038; *Hodgson* 6362–6373, 6450–6460, 6474, 6475, 6535, 6536; *Frean* 15274–15276, 15295, 15301, 15348–15350 15359; *Hayes* 17311–17315, 17340–17342——A property tax, *Robertson* 13629–13635 ——A modified income tax, *Robertson* 13629–13635——Reduction of assessed taxes, *Houghton* 701–707, 750; *Rolfe* 1629, 1682–1689; *Sherborn* 4043——Reduction of local taxation, *Brickwell* 503–505; *Bowyer* 3464; *Morton* 3987–3989; *Ellman* 4824–4839; *Hall* 4993——Commutation of tithes, *Houghton* 701–707, 750; *Rolfe* 1478–1486; *Hall* 5002; *Bickerton* 8736–8740, 8812–8820; *Neave* 9427–9435; *Cramp* 9530–9533; *Crowther* 12806–12811——Fixed valuation of tithes, *Robertson* 13629–13635——Issue of 1*l.* notes payable in gold, with security by the Bank against loss, *Blacker* 15502——Adjustment between landlord and tenant, *Hall* 5002; *Ellis* 10721–10724, 10985, 10986; *Hancock* 11302, 11325; *Brown* 12233; *Parker* 12595–12604, 12623; *Fison* 12742; *Church* 13504–13508——Applying land to the growth of other crops than wheat, *Blacker* 15502——To crush unfounded expectations that Government can relieve without exertion by farmers, *Hall* 5002——To adopt a system of patents for improvements in agriculture as well as manufactures, *Hall* 5002——To adopt a better system of statistics, *Hall* 5002——Government to store corn in times of abundance, and let it out in times of scarcity, *Hall* 5002—— Against Parliamentary interference; not in the power of the legislature to grant relief, or if in its power it would be better not exercised, *Morton* 3784; *Sanders* 6069; *Howden* 10219–10222; *Brodie* 10347; *Walker* 10664–10666; *Ellis* 10706, 10721–10724, 10985, 10986; *Goodman* 11069; *Hancock* 11302; *Brown* 12223; *Parker* 12434; *Fison* 12742; *Church* 13504–13508; *Lord Ashburton* 17772.

See also *Agricultural Produce. Agricultural Prosperity. Assessed Taxes. Bank of England Notes. Banks, Country. Bonded Corn*, 2. *Farmers. Cash Payments. Clay Lands*, 1, 2. *Barley. Corn Laws. Corn Spirits. Cultivation. Currency* 3. *Farmers. Graziers. Irish Corn. Irish Produce. Malt Duty*, 3, *Manufacturing Interest. Mortgages. Northumberland. Petitions to Parliament. Prices of Corn. Produce of Corn. Profit and Loss. Rent*, 4. *Servants. Soap. Standard of Value. Tallow. Taxation. Tithes. Upland Farms. Wages. Wool.*

AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS:

1. *Employment of.*
2. *Improved and present prosperous condition of.*
3. *Comparative condition of, with high prices and high wages, and the contrary.*
4. *Comparative condition of, as regards wages, and the price of provisions.*

1. *Employment of.*

Employment more abundant than ever, *Jacob* 260, 269, 291–300——Are well employed, —In Aberdeenshire, *Walker* 10629, 10630——In Ayrshire, *Brown* 12247, 12248——In Bedfordshire, *Bennett* 8194–8197, 8275——In Bucks, *Cortis* 1912——In Essex, *Parker* 12417–12419——In Gloucestershire, *Hall* 4974, 4975——In Haddingtonshire, *Brodie* 10367–10371, 10375——In Hampshire, *Stares* 11643–11645——In Huntingdonshire, *Bowyer* 3638——In Kildare, *Shawe* 14447——In Kincardineshire, *Walker* 10629, 10630 ——In Lincolnshire, *Atkinson* 5928——In Nottinghamshire, *Stevenson* 13098, 13099, 13101–13108——In Warwickshire, *Umbers* 8511——In Yorkshire (East Riding), *Howard* 5430–5449.

Are better employed than formerly,—In Essex, *Kemp* 2089–2096——In Sussex, *Boniface* 13238, 13239——From the increase of public works, *Bennett* 8194–8197; *Umbers* 8511; *Cox* 14218, 14219—— From increased circulation, and not from the demand for labour for public works, *Spooner* 15811–15814——Not so well employed in Ireland generally as 20 years ago, *Shawe* 14446–14454——Want of employment,—In Bedfordshire (Southern part), *Bennett* 8275——In Bucks, *Brickwell* 459——In Cambridge, *Thurnall* 2354–2371——In Kildare, *Shawe* 14488–14493——In Norfolk, *Fison* 12661——In Suffolk, *Cooper* 5637, 5638, 5791——In Sussex, *Boniface* 13238, 13239——Manner of employing them in Roxburghshire, *McDougal* 14540–14542——Improvements on the Duke of Bedford's estate were done partly to employ the labourers under the old poor law, *Bennett* 8267——Apparent surplus of labourers in Sussex arose from the conduct of the men themselves while under the old system of poor laws, aided by the beer shops, *Boniface* 13241, 13242——Employment of labourers in Ireland depends upon the size of a farmer's family, *Blacker* 15386–15388.

AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS—continued.

2. *Improved and present prosperous condition of.*

Great but gradual improvement in the condition of the labouring and all other classes within the last fifty years, *Jacob* 243–258; *Blacker* 15462–15464——Condition of, very good,—In Bucks, *Houghton* 814; *Rolfe* 1444–1447; *Cortis* 1899, 1912, 1913——In Essex, *Parker* 12417–12419——In Glamorganshire, *David* 4418–4422——In Haddingtonshire, *Brodie* 10367–10371, 10375——In Kincardineshire, *Walker* 10629, 10630——In Lincolnshire (Clays and Wolds), *Atkinson* 5853–5873; *Calthrop* 7893–7895——In Perthshire, *Oliphant* 11263–11265——In Roxburghshire, *M'Dougal* 14540–14542——In Somersetshire, *Hancock* 11386——In Sussex, *Goodman* 11014, 11015——In Yorkshire (East Riding) *Howard* 5430–5449——Their condition better now than formerly,—In Aberdeenshire, *Robertson* 13637–13643——In Bedfordshire, *Bennett* 8360–8362——In Bucks, *Houghton* 814——In Forfarfshire, *Robertson* 13637–13643——In Glamorganshire, *David* 4347——In Gloucestershire, *Hall* 4891, 5005, 5006——In Huntingdonshire, *Bowyer* 3604–3614——In Kincardineshire, *Robertson* 13637–13643——In Nottinghamshire, *Stevenson* 13098, 13099, 13101, 13108——In Surrey, *Smallpiece* 2933–2936, 3072–3080——In Warwickshire, *Umbers* 8538–8540——Condition of, never better,—In Ayrshire, *Brown* 12246——In Bucks, *Morton* 3794, 3830, 3927–3943——In Dumfries, *Church* 13579, 13580——In Kent, *Neave* 9362–9419——In Kincardineshire, *Menzies* 14064–14067——In Kinross-shire, *Menzies* 14064–14067——In Leicestershire, *Ellis* 10729, 10837, 10838——In Lincolnshire, *Atkinson* 5883, 5884——In East Lothian, *Howden* 10184–10189——In Middlesex, *Tellyer* 4207——In Perthshire, *Menzies* 14064–14067——In Surrey, *Smallpiece* 2857.

Condition of labourers in regular employment and with small families is comfortable in Suffolk, *Cooper* 5787–5790——Low prices and high wages are not likely to produce a state of society insecure for the state of property, *Langhorne* 9035, 9036——Doubts whether the better condition of labourers at present rests on any solid foundation, *Morton* 3927–3943——Their prosperity will not continue if much land thrown out of cultivation, *Howard* 5430–5449——Wages being paid out of capital, cannot be a state of prosperity for labourers likely to last, *Freeland* 14846–14850——Distressed condition of, in Cambridgeshire, *Thurnall* 2354–2371——Are worse off than in 1833, in Suffolk, *Cooper* 5637, 5638——Where they are not well off it is their own fault, in Sussex, *Goodman* 11014, 11015——Labourers are not well off in Buckinghamshire, *Cox* 14218, 14219——Labourers are not better off than 20 years ago; their distressed condition in 1821 and 1832, *Shawe* 14446–14454.

3. *Comparative condition of, with high prices and high wages, and the contrary.*

Their comparative condition now and during the war; price of wheat and rate of wages, *Morton* 3807–3824——Their condition better during the war than previously, *Umbers* 8502–8510——They would not be so well off with war prices and war wages, *Menzies* 14064–14067——Comparative condition of the labourers with high wages and high price of wheat, and a contrary state of things, *Brickwell* 665, 666——Comparative condition under the Poor Law Bill and with the high prices of the war, *Earl of Radnor* 16869-16874——Labourers generally were better off with high wages and high prices, *Rolfe* 1604–1615; *Cramp* 9503–9510——They wish for wheat at 8*s.*, *Hancock* 11386——Condition of, better during the low wages paid for, 1788–1792——Taxation not being so high, *Brickwell* 466–472, 650–656——Labourers as well off now with reduced wages as formerly with higher; price of flour is lower, *Kemp* 2078–2096——With remunerating prices farmers could employ more labourers, which would improve their condition, *Brickwell* 566, 567; *Rolfe* 1502–1507; *Thurnall* 2354–2371; *Smallpiece* 3106–3111, 3182–3186; *Cooper* 5787–5790; *Boniface* 13253–13255——Agricultural labourers would be better off with a lower price of wheat, *Hodgson* 6570–6573.

4. *Comparative condition of, as regards wages and the price of provisions.*

Labourer never better off as regards wages, compared with the price of provisions, *Neave* 9362–9419; *Stevenson* 13098, 13099, 13101, 13108; *Muntz* 16,533——Is receiving double the quantity of food he formerly did for his money, *Bowyer* 3623–3625, 3634——No time when labourers could command more of the necessaries of life for the same money, *Sherborn* 4052, 4120–4122——Labourers consume better food now than formerly, *Sherborn* 4113——Condition better now with low wages, as regards the price of wheat, but not as regards those articles of consumption which have kept up their price, *Brickwell* 350, 351——Condition not so good as in 1833; he cannot command the same amount of necessaries, *Babbs* 3397–3401——Provisions are getting higher, *Freeland* 14820–14823——With the exception of the late rise in price of provisions, the agricultural labourer is better off than at any time, *Earl of Radnor* 16858–16860.

See also *Allotment System. Allowances to Labourers. Beer. Beer Act. Beer Shops. Birmingham Railroad. Cash Payments. Clothing. Consumption of Wheat. Convent. Cows. Crime. Currency*, 4. *Education. Farmers*, 2. *House Servants. Irish Labourers. Iron Works. Labour. Labouring Classes. Manufacturing Districts. Meat. Poor Law Amendment Act. Potato Land. Provision. Reform Bill. Spirits. Tax. Work. Wages. War.*

Agricultural Loan Bank. Facility afforded to farmers by means of the Agricultural Loan Bank, *Brassington* 14734–14739.

Agricultural Museum, Stirling. Great advantages of the Agricultural Museum originally formed by Messrs. Drummond, but since attached to the Agricultural Association of Stirling, *Smith* 15225–15233.

Agricultural Produce. Great demand for all articles of landed production for a series of years in the North, *Hodgson* 6530——Prices of, *Brickwell* 408–415——Causes of ther rise in different articles of agricultural produce, *Earl of Radnor* 16726–16730——Prices of other articles except wheat not so good as in 1833, *Bowyer* 3454——Barley, oats, wool and sheep are at good prices; only complaint is the price of wheat, *Babbs* 3413; *Tillyer* 4196–4200; *Howard* 5473; *Ellis* 10719; *Muntz* 16506–16509——Causes of the difference in price of other agricultural produce and wheat, *Sanders* 6876–6887.

Price of other produce has not counterbalanced the loss sustained on wheat, *Umbers* 8473——With the present prices of produce, generally, farmers need not be in distress, *Crowther* 12957–12958——Improvements on different estates in Scotland, which shows a great increase of all agricultural produce, especially wheat, *Church* 13551–13559——Must keep up if manufactures continue prosperous; price of one kind of produce does not govern another, *Robertson* 13771–13773——The price of agricultural produce is very much influenced by the state of the manufacturing and commercial classes, *Robertson* 13671.

Agricultural Prosperity. Bringing clay farmers to speak of the distress of agriculture is making out an ex-parte case; farmers of light lands, who are prosperous, will give a different account, but will not volunteer their evidence from fear of having their rents increased, *Sanders* 6280–6284——There is a prospect of amendment as regards the condition of agriculture, *Sanders* 6681–6683——Statements brought forward to show agricultural distress generally contain some mis-statement or fallacy, *Sanders* 6871–6875——Would have no complaints of distress if the landlords would attend to their own business, *Oliphant* 11098——Difficulties of the times and low prices have been met in Scotland and in the North of England by increased exertions on the part of landlords and tenants, *Church* 13565–13567.

Agriculture is not distressed, except in cases of long leases at high rents; complaints by farmers would show a contrary opinion on their part, but which complaints are disappearing, *Earl of Radnor* 16777–16788——Evidence showing that certain agriculturists may have suffered from the measure of 1819, and yet agriculture itself be flourishing, *Earl of Radnor* 16904–16923——Agriculture generally does not require any alteration of the currency, *Earl of Radnor* 16947–16949——The agriculturists have no separate interest in the adoption of a different standard of value, *Lord Ashburton* 17760, 17761——Reasons why the state of the currency and circulation have nothing material to do with the distress of agriculturists, *Lord Ashburton* 17760.

See also *Farmers*, 3. *Northumberland. Population. War.*

Agricultural and Manufacturing Interests. Difference with regard to prices as affecting the agricultural and manufacturing interests in favour of the latter, *Burgess* 16069–16076——Causes why the price of agricultural produce does not fall so suddenly as manufacturing produce, *Muntz* 16437.

Agricultural Society of Cambridge. Number and description of persons of whom composed, *Thurnall* 2508–2511.

Agricultural Societies. See *Premiums.*

Agriculture. Improvement in the system of agriculture in Ireland, *Sanders* 6007. Since 1800, *Brassington* 14592–14596——The greater quantity of science and capital which has been exercised in agriculture of late years has brought into cultivation lands not formerly cultivated with wheat, and driven unimproved lands out of cultivation, *Oliphant* 11232–11238——Agriculture fell back in Scotland for eight or ten years after 1820, from deficiency of employment and want of spirit and capital among farmers, *M'Dougal* 14553, 14554——Period from whence the rise in agriculture may be dated in Scotland, *M'Dougal* 14587, 14588. *See* also *Scotch Banking System.*

Ale. The brewing of ale was not a business in London until of late years, *Dunlop* 9170, 9171.

Allied Troops. See *Commercial Distress.*

Allotment System. Has been established, but on a very small scale, *Jacob* 152——Has caused a large growth of potatoes, but which have been consumed by pig feeding, or by sale, and by being kept for seed, *Houghton* 896——Has increased the comforts of labourers, *Smallpiece* 3073; *Bowyer* 3626; *Howard* 5511, 5512; *Bennett* 8360–8362——Great use it would have been to labourers during the war, *Smallpiece* 3099——They have been made successfully; they are restricted to a quarter of an acre, *Bennett* 8356–8358——Advantage of; as much land given as will keep a cow, *Bickerton* 8718–8725——Rent of allotments; how far there is an evil in it; extent of allotments, *Hancock* 11395–11402.

See also *Potatoes. Price of Corn*, 6.

Allowances to Labourers. Assistance to labourers with a family, formerly according to a diet scale at Leckhampstead, *Brickwell* 549, 550——In some few instances they were allowed wheat below the market price formerly, but not to any extent in Huntingdonshire, *Bowyer* 3635——On Witness's farm at Harmondsworth are lodged by their master, who dresses their victuals, they finding it; they have a fire and a butt of beer always to go to, *Tillyer* 4206——Nature of the allowances to labourers in Perthshire, *Oliphant* 11263–11265.

Alluvial Soil. Description of soil, and produce of alluvial soils at Tully Allan, near Alloa, *Menzies* 13953–13955——Number of acres of land taken from the sea; it is very productive; average rent per acre; farmed on the six shift rotation produce per acre, *Menzies* 13971–13987——Description of embankment used in reclaiming land from the sea, and period it remained before it was cropped, *Menzies* 14039–14042.
See also *Lime.*

Althom Parish, Essex. A great portion of the farms in this parish were untenanted, but are now let, *Kemp* 2044.

America. Price of wheat in America exceedingly high, *Hodgson* 6371——Considerably above ours during the last winter, *Sturge* 7267——Extent of circulating medium in America, and course pursued by them with regard to their national debt, *Burgess* 16028–16033——There may be an interest rising up in America similar to that of this country, of a monied interest in co-operation with Government, acting as an incubus upon the productive interests of the country, *Burgess* 16064, 16065——Extent of the depreciation of the gold standard in America, which state did not increase the circulation of metallic currency till it had paid off its national debt, *Burgess* 16130–16135——Alteration in the value of the gold coin in America, *Haggard* 16289–16291——Supposed principles on which America has adopted a gold standard, *Lord Ashburton* 17753–17759.
See also *Birmingham. Bonded Corn,* 5. *Carpet Manufactory. Gold.*

American Flour. Is exported to Canada, and their wheat sent here in small quantities, *Jacob* 218, 219——Quantity of flour in barrels exported annually from America to the British Colonies, and quantity that comes to Liverpool for transhipment in British bottoms, *Fearn* 15260–15264.
See also *Flour.*

American War. During the American war the price of corn was much lower than at present, *Parker* 12588.
See also *Agricultural Distress,* 1.

Amisfield Mains Farm. Calculation showing the difference in witness's favour there would have been on the farm at Amisfield Mains, if it had been rented under a corn rent instead of a money rent, from 1822–1835, *Brodie* 10314–10318.

Annandale Estate. Great increase in the produce of the Annandale estate, *Church* 13550–13555.

Anslye Parish. Amount of assessment for the poor in this parish, 1816, 1818, 1820, 1830, 1834 and 1835, *Ellis* 10981.

Arable Land. No diminution in the quantity of arable land in Essex, *Page* 2750, 2751.
See also *Grass Land. Tillage Land.*

Ardee Parish. Less wheat sown in this parish this year than last, *Sanders* 6037.

Armstrong, Thomas Knox, Esq. Statement made by him on the different modes of fattening cattle, *Blacker* 15500.
See also *Cattle,* 4.

Arnall, Joseph Cook. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Corn inspector at Boston, Lincolnshire, 9593, 9594——No practical improvement could be made in the present mode of striking the averages, though it is possible for frauds to creep in, 9595–9628——Frauds have been attempted, but the returns have been struck out of the averages, 9596, 9597, 9601——Ignorance of farmers would prevent sellers' returns being acted on, even if they were made, 9599——No motive for fictitious sales when price low, 9600, 9601——Increase of corn sold at Boston 1834 over 1829, is from the increased produce of the fen lands, 9602–9604——Low prices attributed to the greater quantity of wheat grown, and the abundance of crops, 9605–9607——Nearly all the wheat sold is included in the returns, 9608, 9609——The same wheat being returned as sold more than once is of no consequence, provided the sales are *bonâ fide,* 9610–9615——Corn sold in the country districts does not come into the Boston returns, 9616–9622——The corn merchants' return contains the name of the farmer of whom the purchase made, as well as the price and quantity, 9624–9626, 9627——Corn averages from 1828 are a fair criterion of quantity, 9627——Returns at Boston are obtained in a conciliatory manner, which it is conceived causes them to be made fairly, 9628.

Ashburton, The Right hon. Lord. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Prices depend upon the demand and supply of the article and of the circulating medium, 17004, 17005——Prices of wheat pretty steady at 50*s.* some years antecedent to the Bank Restriction Act, 17006–17008——Cause of the Bank Restriction Act, which did not alter the value of money for one or two years afterwards, 17009–17011——Increased issues by the Bank after that Act, occasionally in compliance with the wishes of the Minister of the day, and not with a view to their own profit, 17012–17015——In what manner prices were affected by the increased issues, and by the exclusion of the continental markets, 17016, 17017——Whether there was distress among those parties whose goods were excluded from the continental markets, 17018, 17019——Extent to which war produces a rise in prices, 17019–17025——The last Committee on Agriculture reported, that in years of average production there was a necessity for a supply from abroad, 17026.

Ashburton, The Right hon. Lord. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—*continued.*

Extent to which the Bank issues caused a rise in prices during the war, 17027–17028——Whether the price of gold or the price of commodities generally is the best test of depreciation, 17029–17031——Effect of prices on consumption; derangement caused by the immense expenditure during the war, causes it to be very difficult to draw conclusions from that period, 17032–17036——Causes which led to the fall of prices during the war, 17037–17039——West India Compensation Fund is one cause of the present speculations in railroads, &c., 17040, 17041——Effect of the closing foreign markets during the war, and opening them after the peace, in causing a rise or fall in the price of manufactured articles, 17043–17049——Fluctuations in prices in different years between the war and the passing the measure of 1819, and how far in consequence of the state of the Bank issues, 17050–17060——Effect on prices of the preparation for the resumption of cash payments before that measure actually took effect, 17061–17068——Per centage difference in the value between paper and gold; extract from Mr. Thornton's speech in 1811, 17069–17074.

(Second Examination.)—Evidence upon the per centage depreciation of the currency in 1811, and subsequently to the end of the war, with weight to be attached to Mr. Henry Thornton's opinion thereon, 17503–17510——Bank Restriction Act of 1797 was passed in utter ignorance of its consequences, but the war could not have been carried on without it, 17512–17517——Distress occasioned by the preparations for a return to cash payments, of which the Act of 1819 regulated the mode of proceeding, 17518–17529——Lord Londonderry's measure for the re-issue of one pound notes in 1822, tended to relieve the landed interest, but was passed in ignorance, and produced mischievous effects, 17530–17543——Panic in 1825 was partly occasioned by over-speculation, aided by the previous re-issue of one pound notes, 17544–17547——Extent to which alterations in the currency was a cause of commercial adversity in 1815 and 1816, and 1821, 17548–17550——An issue of Exchequer bills relieved the distress of 1793, which was Mr. Pitt's general remedy for distress; use of Exchequer bills in supporting private credit, 17551–17553.

Keeping out the small notes in 1822 was a matter incompatible with the safety of the currency; it was a matter of convenience against safety, 17554–17556——Panic of 1825 was not all caused by the drain of gold from the Bank for exportation; the principal drain was by the country bankers to fortify themselves against a run, 17557–17569——Further evidence upon the effect on prices that would be occasioned by Bank issues and a deteriorated standard, 17570–17581——Whether the measure of 1819 would have passed without a depreciation of the standard had Parliament been aware of the actual depreciation that had taken place, 17582–17585——Extent of bank issues subsequent to 1825 and 1826, 17586–17588—Manner in which the deposits of the Bank are more dangerous than its circulation of notes, 17588–17591——The whole period since 1825 has been more or less a period of distress, 17592.

Reasons the farmer cannot be said to have been prosperous at any time within the last six or seven years, 17593–17595——Present rise in prices caused by a revulsion from an unnaturally low price, and from an expectation that less wheat has been sown this year, 17596——Crops for the last four or five years have been more than average, 17597——Opinion that there is a great deal of corn in farmers' hands, notwithstanding some witnesses state the contrary, 17598——Low prices now principally occasioned by over production, though tampering with the currency might have been the main feature in 1822, 17599, 17600——Withdrawal of the one pound notes virtually took effect before the Act abolishing them; manner in which that withdrawal affected the farmer more than any other class, 17601-17604—Average price of corn, 1824–1830, and how affected by wet harvests and currency, 17607–17614——Causes of the present high prices of meat and wool, 17615——No reason why the issues of joint stock banks should be different in their operation from ordinary country banks, 17616, 17617.

A silver standard or a mixed standard of gold and silver would be safer than a single gold standard; small notes would not be safe even with a silver standard; up to 1798, the standard was gold and silver, 17618–17620——Particulars as to the law in 1778–1783 and 1798, with regard to silver being a legal tender by tale or by weight, 17621–17626——Further evidence in favour of a silver standard or a conjoint standard of gold and silver, as a security to the Bank and to the public, 17627–17630——Extent to which debtors have been losers by not being allowed as formerly to pay in whichever metal was the cheapest, 17631–17633——Manner in which the law against the export or melting of coin acted as a great security to the Bank with regard to its issues, 17634–17642——Extent to which America has depreciated the gold coin for the purpose of drawing it into circulation in that kingdom, 17643–17646.

Manner of the abolition of the silver as a tender has been to the detriment of debtors on contracts existing prior to 1798, to the extent of five per cent., 17647–17655, 17662——Causes which led to the introduction of gold instead of silver, and whether the difference in price between the two has not arisen since gold was chosen as the standard, 17656–17659——Abolition of the silver has added five per cent. to the weight of taxation, 17660–17661——Attempting to adjust contracts might do more injustice than justice, 17663–17665——Greater portion of the national debt was contracted in depreciated currency, 17666——Clause in the Weight and Measure Act of 1824 for rectifying contracts, 17667–17669——Opinion that from the distance of time that has elapsed, it would be better

635

Ashburton, The Right hon. Lord. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

better that old contracts should not be opened for the sake of being adjusted, however strong the argument may be in favour of it, 17670–17676.

Keeping out the depreciated paper in Russia has been the cause of less injustice than altering the metallic standard would have been, 17677–17686——Further evidence upon the want of knowledge by Parliament of the effect of the measure of 1797, and of the effect of the depreciation of the measure of 1819, and opinion against the question being now reconsidered, 17687–17698——Comparative price of gold and silver on resuming cash payments in 1819, 17698–17707——Further evidence against an equitable adjustment of contracts after the period of time that has elapsed, 17708–17711——In any new arrangement that may be made, the standard should not be depreciated, 17712, 17713——Further evidence upon the value of silver at different periods, and upon the debtor being nominally, but not practically, injured by the doing away with the tender in silver, 17714–17735——Impossibility of adjusting the contracts of persons holding portions of the national debt, 17736–17741——There are opinions both ways, but the general expectation is that there will be an increased quantity of silver rather than an increased quantity of gold, 17742–17744.

In the event of a silver standard, gold might be allowed to circulate as a token for change under five pounds, 17745–17749—— Mode adopted in France with regard to the use of both metals, 17749–17752——Supposed principles on which America has adopted a gold standard, 17753–17759, 17764——Silver standard preferable to gold in case of war or difficulties; but the public mind must be first prepared for the change, 17760—— Reasons why the state of the currency and circulation have nothing material to do with the distress of agriculture, 17760——The agriculturists have no separate interest in the adoption of a different standard of value, 17760–17761——If the old standard had been established in 1819, the price of wheat and of every element constituting that price would have risen five per cent., 17762–17763.

Confidence that would be given to the Bank and to those establishments depending on it, by the adoption of a silver or conjoint standard, 17765–17767——Opinion upon the expediency of returning to cash payments in Russia was given without taking into consideration the political circumstances affecting the state of vassalage, 17768——System of small notes in Scotland may work well from their limited extent, 17769–17770—— Statements of change in the value of silver and gold are without reference to the depreciation of the paper, 17771——No parliamentary relief is possible for the agriculturist, 17772.

Assessed Taxes. Removal of, would give but little relief, *Brickwell* 346; *Kemp* 1995–1997; *Iles* 7453–7456——They do not bear to any extent on the farmer, *Morton* 3988; *Neave* 9386–9388——No assessed taxes for Ireland, *Sanders* 6017——Farmers of Ayr would rather pay double the amount of assessed taxes they are paying than support the crows, *Brown* 12224.

See also *Agricultural Distress*, 6. *Farmers*, 3. *Horse Tax. Servants. Taxation. Window Tax.*

Assessment for the Land Tax. Period for which assessment made, and how long continued, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9048——Excess the actual assessments were over the amount fixed by the Act, and which excess was by Act 6 Geo. 4, c. 32, made applicable in aid of subsequent years, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9052——Amount of land-tax assessed, and expenses of cultivation, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9056——They are made annually, but generally copied from the preceding year; principle on which made, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9059–9061.

Atkinson, Robert John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Improvement in the cultivation of the wolds of Lincolnshire from the use of bones and marle, and sowing the land with small seeds for pasture, 5822–5825——Four and five field course system of husbandry adopted; the five-field course considered the best, 5826–5828——Advantages of marling the land; expense of marling and bones, 5829–5835——Greater use of lime on clay lands would be advantageous, 5840–5843——Clay lands badly managed; want of a regular system of cropping and under-draining, 5844–5846——Farmers on the wold lands do not suffer so much as those in other parts of England, 5847——Clay farmers distressed from the low price of wheat and bad management of land, 5848——More wheat could be grown per acre, and sheep might be kept on the clay lands if they were under-drained, 5849–5852.

Labourers upon the clays and wolds are well off; rate of wages; the cottages are low-rented, and they have the advantage of keeping a cow, 5853–5873——Poors' rate is higher on clay than on wold lands; it is rather lower within the last two or three years, but is altogether so moderate that there is not much opportunity for reduction, 5874–5879——A few Irish labourers are employed upon the level of Ancholme during harvest, when there is a scarcity of others, 5882–5885——Increased growth of wheat on the clay lands in the last three years, 5886——Average produce per acre on clay and wold lands, 5887–5888——Average produce per acre of barley and beans on wold and clay lands, 5889–5891——Farmers are dissatisfied with the mode of taking the averages; the seller as well as the buyer should make returns, 5893–5897, 5900——Fictitious sale of oats at Brigg made to affect averages, 5898–5899——County rate is considered heavy; farmers object to the magistrates' control over it, 5901–5903.

Under inclosures in the wolds the tithe is commuted for a corn rent; proportion to rent and produce, 5904–5912——A permanent rent-charge for tithe of 5*s.* 6*d.* would not be safe if the whole produce fell below a remunerating price, 5913–5921——Tithe should be

Atkinson, Robert John. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

commuted upon the principle of the fair natural value of the land with average management, and not upon the principle of improved cultivation, 5922–5927——Wages of 12*s.* a week could not be paid with wheat under 50*s.* per quarter, unless with a fair average for other produce, 5929——Reduction in the price of task-work has been about 25 or 30 per cent., 5931–5933——Farmers in Lincolnshire are not prosperous, but from their good husbandry they have not experienced that distress that farmers in many districts have done, 5921, 5929, 5938——Increase of rent on Lord Yarborough's estates, 5941–5944——Extensive rot on the clay lands caused the upland farmers to gain, 5945–5947——Price of wool has risen partly from the rot, and partly from the conversion of grass land into arable, 5948–5950.

Increase of rent on the wolds did not take place till the tenants had been fairly remunerated for the expenses they were put to on the lands being enclosed, 5951–5957——Clay lands will not pay at the present price of wheat, owing to close cropping and bad management occasioned by the poverty of the farmers, 5958–5971——Barley crops of 1833 and 1834 turned out better than was expected, in consequence of good management and a little rain, which prevented the injury that would have been sustained by the dry spring, 5972–5976——Expense of tile-draining; the drains should not be placed too deep, 5978–5981——Piercing drainage would not do permanently in Lincolnshire, 5986–5987——Bones are used for turnips only; they are obtained from abroad, 5991–5993.

Austria. Regulation of the paper currency of Austria after the war, *Burgess* 16058–16063.

Averages:

1. *Present mode of taking them, and opinions for and against an alteration.*
2. *Extent to which affected by fictitious sales.*

1. *Present mode of taking them, and opinions for and against an alteration.*

Method of taking the averages in England are more correct than in Scotland, *Jacob* 81, 82——Are more correctly taken since the law of 1828, *Jacob* 147–150——They are struck under Act of 1828, *Pooley* 9243——Alteration of averages would relieve the farmer, *Byron* 8410–8413——No improvements can be made in the present law as to the mode of taking averages, *Pooley* 9252; *Arnall* 9595, 9628——Corn returns on which the averages are framed are in the main correct, *Sanders* 6061–6063; *Calthrop* 8160——Corn averages from 1828 are a fair criterion of quantity, *Arnall* 9627——Reason why it is not in the power of corn-factors to raise the averages now they are taken every six weeks, as when they were taken weekly, *Scott* 5238, 5239, 5242–5250.

Farmers are dissatisfied with the mode of taking the averages; the seller as well as the buyer should make a return, *Atkinson* 5893–5897; *Bickerton* 8744, 8745——They are not now unfairly taken; seller making returns would give too much trouble; it would be difficult to detect a well-concerted fraud, *Ellis* 10952–10954——It would be fairer to take the averages by way of comparison previous to the war, than for the first fifteen years of the war; close approximation of the averages, 1785–1795 and 1830–1836, *Sturge* 7303–7308——Enough inferior wheat has not been brought to market to influence the averages, *Houghton* 831——Were reduced from the bad quality of wheat occasioned by the wet last year within 20 miles of London, *Sherborn* 4069——Effect of the plan for substitution on averages and prices, and advantages to those having inferior corn, *Frean* 15310–15329.

2. *Extent to which affected by fictitious sales.*

Fictitious sale of oats at Brigg made to affect averages, *Atkinson* 5898, 5899——Failure of a scheme of certain corn speculators to return the high-priced corn so as to enhance the averages, and reduce the duty, *Sanders* 6249–6253——Mode of speculation under the present Corn Laws to affect averages in order to liberate bonded wheat, *Sturge* 7200–7212——Manner in which fictitious sales have taken place and opened the ports for rye, *Calthrop* 8163–8166——No fictitious sales since the last Act relating to averages, *Pooley* 9245, 9246——Difficulty of ascertaining whether corn sold two or three times over or not; there has not been an attempt at a fraud of that description of late years, *Pooley* 9264–9267——Plan that would be adopted in case of fraud being suspected, *Pooley* 9297–9315——Frauds have been attempted, but the returns have been struck out of the averages, *Arnall* 9596, 9597, 9601——No motive for fictitious sales when price low, *Arnall* 9600, 9601.

See also *Corn Rents. Corn Returns. Scotch Corn.*

Aylesbury, Vale of. Land in, would fetch thirty years' purchase, *Brickwell* 420.

B.

Babbs, Robert. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Farmer in Essex, 3202——Farms 288 acres, principally arable, 3207——Course of husbandry pursued, 3216——Expense per acre of witness on the farm; amount of loss incurred, 3218–3226, 3279——Witness employs as much labour as formerly, 3227——Wages reduced from 12 to 9 shillings, 3228, 3229, 3280——Not so much corn in hand as 10 years ago; farmers obliged to thresh out earlier to get ready money, 3231–3235——Farmers pay their rent out of their capital, 3236——Small farmers very little better than paupers, 3249——State of farmers generally improved in the last four years, 3253–3260——Increase of produce of land may partly be accounted for by landlords having possession of their farms, and capital being expended on the land,

Babbs, Robert. (Analysis of his Evidence)– *continued.*

3287, 3288, 3305——This increase of produce accounts for the fall in price of wheat, 3289, 3306——Witness is better off than he was four or five years ago, but not so well off as he was ten years ago, 3259, 3332, 3334——Poors' rates in witness's parish considerably decreased, 3347, 3349——Breadth of land under wheat cultivation has increased during the last three years, 3358, 3360——Rent and rate of decrease allowed to witness since 1829, 3380–3388——Wheat of a superior quality will produce more flour, which without an extra demand for flour will lower the price of wheat, 3392–3396——Labourers' condition not so good as in 1833; he cannot command the same amount of necessaries, 3397–3401——Wheat cannot be grown in Essex at 5*s.* a bushel of every rate removed, 3423, 3424.

Bacon. Rise in the price of, attributed to beans being dearer, and there being fewer bacon hogs fed in Bucks, *Brickwell* 496, 497——Is as much used as an article of food in Essex as it was formerly, *Kemp* 2076.

See also *Irish Bacon.*

Bad management of Land. See *Clay Lands*, 1.

Bagshot Heath. Cultivation of land on, with a profit by means of draining and the use of bone dust as manure, *Houghton* 808–810——More money would have been laid out in its improvement but for low prices, *Houghton* 1213, 1214.

Baltic. In the lower parts of the Baltic wheat could be produced at 18*s.* or 22*s.* a quarter for years together, *Sanders* 6044——Price at which wheat could be imported from the Baltic ports; price paid in 1818, *Calthrop* 7873–7878——Trade with the Baltic must, to a certain extent, be carried on by anticipation, *Hodgson* 6551——Opinion, that under a free trade there would be a regular supply from the Baltic, *Hodgson* 6663–6667——Purchases from the Baltic are making now to be shipped in the Spring, *Fison* 12755——Imports from the Baltic since 1791, *Ruding* 17288–17293.

See also *Bonded Corn*, 3. *Foreign Corn. Freight.*

Bank Charter. Bankers consider the operation of the tender clause in the Bank Charter Act of great advantage to them, *Burgess* 16113.

Bank of England. See *Bank of England Notes. Banks, Country*, 1. *Five Pound Notes. Government One Pound Notes.*

Bank of England Notes. Revenue to the country from the use of notes, *Sanders* 7099, 7100——Issues of the Bank of England regulate the issues of country banks, *Langhorn* 7571, 7572, 8937——Bank issues during the last few years have been very low compared to the wants of the country, *Calthrop* 8077, 8078——Effect of increased issues in relieving distress at different periods between 1816 and 1825, *Langhorn* 8916–8921——Between January and November 1825 the Bank of England drew out of circulation above five millions of notes, *Langhorn* 8934——Excessive issues of paper in 1822 and 1823 caused the then called prosperity of 1824 and 1825 and the subsequent panic, *Langhorn* 8941, 8942——Reduction of bank issues might tend to depress prices though there was as much issued as there was a demand for, *Sanders* 6845–6847.

If the issue of notes caused a rise in the price of gold, the bank could not stop that rise by contracting their circulation, *Langhorn* 9024, 9025——Manner in which the contraction of the Bank of England affects the circulation of bills of exchange, and thereby affects prices and commercial credit, *Burgess* 15937–15943——Adversity caused to the agricultural classes by the contraction of the bank issues after 1815, preparatory to paying in gold, *Muntz* 16373–16377, 16396, 16397——Withdrawal of gold causes withdrawal of bank circulation, *Calthrop* 7933–7941; *Muntz* 16411–16414——Fluctuation of prices from the alternate extension and contraction of the bank issues caused the outcry for a return to cash payments, *Earl Radnor* 16831, 16832, 16924–16933——Increased issues by the bank after the Restriction Act occasionally, in compliance with the wishes of the minister of the day, and not with a view to their own profit, *Lord Ashburton* 17012–17015.

Fluctuations in prices in different years between the war and the passing the measure of 1819, and how far in consequence of the state of the bank issues, *Lord Ashburton* 17050–17060——Account of the amount of issues, securities, and bullion of the Bank of England as published in the Gazette, from the commencement of the publication to the present time, distinguishing gold from silver, *App. I, p.* 217——Promissory notes and post bills of the Bank of England in circulation weekly from March 1834 to April 1836, *App. III., p.* 502——Decrease and increase of bank paper from 1815 to 1835 *App. III., p.* 554.

See also *Banks, Country*, 1. *Branch Banks. Bullion. Gold. Joint Stock Banks. One Pound Notes. Panic. Prices of Corn*, 11. *Silver Standard*, 1. *War*, 3.

Bank of France. The bank of France exercises a material influence with the government of that country, *Burgess* 16066.

See also *Panic.*

Bank Issues. See *Bank of England Notes.*

Bank Notes, Country. Withdrawal of country bank notes in 1825 and 1826 was injurious to the community, *Langhorn* 8955.

Bank Restriction Act. Effect of the Bank Restriction Act of 1797 on raising prices, *Muntz* 16331–16345. *Earl of Radnor,* 16700–16703——Circumstances which may tend to produce a price of corn since the return to cash payments different to that which existed prior to the Bank Restriction Act, *Earl Radnor,* 16789–16796——Cause of the Bank Restriction Act, which did not alter the value of money for one or two years afterwards, *Lord Ashburton* 17009–17011——Bank Restriction Act of 1797 was passed in utter ignorance of its consequences, but the war could not have been carried on without it, *Lord Ashburton* 17512–17517.

See also *Bank of England Notes. Bullion Committee. Credit. Currency,* 1. *Exchanges. Loans. Price of Corn,* 1. *Rent,* 2.

Banks. See *Branch Banks. Discounts. Failures.*

Banks, Country:

1. *Banking Business.*
2. *Accommodation to Farmers.*

1. *Banking Business:*

Whether the dividends paid by those that failed at the panic a proof of their stability, *David,* 4489–4491——Failure of banks in 1816 from the sudden alteration of the circulating medium, and their being unable to realize the debts owing to them, and being themselves obliged to pay on demand, *Spooner* 15592–15598——Greater banking business done at Berwick at the present time by one bank than there was in 1814 by three banks, and that with a smaller circulation of notes, *Langhorn* 7628–7658——Further evidence as to the increase in witness's banking business, as regards deposits at Berwick, *Langhorn* 7680–7687——Effect of rival banks with regard to returning the notes of each other, *Langhorn* 7670–7673.

More the interest of bankers to advocate steady prices and general prosperity than a depreciation of the standard, *Spooner* 15710——Committee instituted in 1827 to protect country bankers against encroachments by the Bank of England and joint-stock banks; $\frac{49}{50}$ths of the country bankers have joined it, *Burgess* 15920–15925——The bankers are not concerned in the publication of the weekly circular of information published by witness, *Burgess* 15926–15929——They willingly gave up the profit attached to one pound notes to be placed in a state of security against runs, *Burgess* 16199–16202.

2. *Accommodation to Farmers:*

Farmers with known capital and good security can without difficulty obtain money to any amount, *Jacob* 242; *Houghton* 776, 874–894, 951–953; *David* 4454, 4455; *Langhorn* 7663–7667, 8528 8530, 8582–8587; *Brooke* 10467–10469; *Stares* 11666, 11667; *Bell* 11991–11996; *Brown* 12355, 12356, 12363–12368——Large farmers have a better chance of getting money than small ones *Houghton* 901——Impossible now to obtain money from country bankers without good security, *Thurnall* 2517–2532——Bankers will not lend money to farmers on personal security; attributed to the change in the value of money produced by Mr. Peel's bill of 1819, *Howard* 5412–5421; *Langhorn* 7573–7577——They have no objection to advance money to farmers in fair credit, but loans for the payment of rent are refused, *Langhorn* 7663–7667.

They will accommodate farmers on good security to enable them to purchase stock, but there is less money lent on accommodation bills than formerly, *Brown* 12363–12368——Farmers would have no difficulty in obtaining accommodation from bankers to complete purchases of farms at three and a half per cent., *Brown* 12355, 12356——The want of accommodation, formerly obtained from country banks, causes needy farmers to throw corn on the market shortly after harvest, and thus reduce the price, *Kemp* 2208–2213——Effect of the withdrawal of banking accommodation and contraction of currency on the credit of the farmers, *Thurnall* 2605–2615——Agriculturists could get better accommodation when one pound notes were in circulation than they can now, *Stares* 11632, 11633, 11665, 11707–11712.

See also *Branch Banks. Farmers. Joint Stock Banks. Loans. One Pound Notes. Panic. Provincial Banks.*

Bankers. See *Joint Stock Banks. One Pound Notes. Panic.*

Banking Accommodation. See *Agricultural Distress,* 5. *Banks, Country,* 2. *Loans.*

Banking System. See *Irish Banking System.*

Barbary. Import of wheat from Barbary in 1829 of good quality but at a high price, *Calthrop,* 7868, 7869.

639

BARLEY:

I.—*Price of Barley:*

1. Present price, how far satisfactory, and price that would be remunerative.
2. Causes of the rise in price.
3. Comparison with the price of wheat.

II.—*Quality of Barley.*

III.—*Growth of Barley:*

1. Extended growth of; substitution of for wheat.
2. Description of land fit for the growth of.
3. Acreable produce, good or deficient crops.

IV.—*Irish and foreign importation.*

V.—*Allowing the unrestricted use of barley by farmers as a means of relief.*

1. Advantages of.
2. Impracticability and disadvantages of.

I.—*Price of barley:*

1. Present price, how far satisfactory, and price that would be remunerative.

Price of at Aberdeen, *Walker* 10662, 10663——At Amersham, *Cortis* 1860–1862——Of malting barley, *Thurnall* 2483——Low price of barley of the crop of 1835 from the season not being suitable to barley, *Cooper* 5664–5670——Increased produce of barley will not diminish the price beyond a certain ratio, *Bowyer* 3511–3514——Price of, is at present satisfactory, *Brickwell* 583; *Tillyar* 4196——Much increase in price not expected, *Houghton* 1014——Is tolerably fair, *Hancock* 11360–11364——Has paid in the last two years, *Morton* 3726, 3727——Is near a fair price but hardly high enough, *Morton* 3670; *David* 4427, 4428, 4452.——Not more than remunerating the last six years, *Morton* 3699-3701; *Howard* 5605–5611.

It is not remunerating, *Houghton* 788; *Sherborn* 4140, 4142; *Urnbers* 8474——Not remunerating in 1834, prices have been higher in 1835, *Cramp* 9488, 9489——Cannot be grown at 2*s.* 9*d.* with a malt duty of 2*s.* 7*d.*, *Houghton* 788——Under 30*s.* not remunerative, *Sherborn* 4140–4142——Four shillings a bushel is lowest price that will afford a fair rent, *David* 4284–4287——Thirty-five shillings would be a remunerating price for barley, *Neave*, 9448——Twenty-eight shillings, *Hope* 9712——Thirty shillings to thirty-five shillings, *Ellis* 10827.

2. Causes of the rise in price.

Deficient crops, *Brickwell* 609–613; *Rolfe* 1508–1513; *Smallpiece*, 2912–2916; *Thurnall* 2290–2296; *Morton* 3699–3701; *David* 4289–4290, 4300——Decreased growth, *Thurnall* 2480–2482; *Bowyer* 3487, 3488——Dry seasons, *Kemp* 2144–2153; *Page* 2710; *Parker* 12427——Increased demand from repeal of the beer duty, *Bowyer* 3473, 3487, 3488; *Morton* 3874–3876; *David* 4289, 4290; *Robertson* 13715.

3. Comparison with the price of wheat.

Price of, higher in proportion than wheat, *Brickwell* 406, 418, 597–599; *Cortis* 1842–1844; *Smallpiece* 3148–3156, 3194-3196; *Bowyer* 3470–3472——Causes; deficient crops, *Thurnall* 2290–2296——Dry seasons, *Page* 2710——Alteration of the beer duty. *Bowyer* 3470–3472——Difficult to account for the disproportion in price, *Houghton* 833, 837–845——Proportion it should bear to the price of wheat, according to the soil and cost of growth, *Houghton* 944–950; *Rolfe* 1451–1456; *Sherborn* 4018; *Ellman* 4689–4693; *Morton* 8703——Effect of reducing the price of, on reducing the price of wheat, *Jacob* 280–290; *Houghton* 833, 837–845.

II.—*Quality of barley.*

That sown early malts better than that sown late, *Bowyer* 3568, 3569——There is much inferior barley unfit for malting, *Fillyer* 4196——In particular years it will not malt; many applications this year for a return of duty on that account, *Hetherington* 9213, 9214——Regulations of the Excise do not make maltsters liable to that failure, *Hetherington* 9215——Average weight of barley grown upon the wolds, *Atkinson* 5892, 5935, 5936——The crop of 1834 lighter than the one of 1835, *Iles* 7356——The quality of barley has very much improved upon wold lands of late years, *Iles* 7478——Dry seasons improve the quality of barley but not the quantity upon light land, *Walker* 10555–10560——The quality of barley improving from mixing Scotch and English seeds, *Shawe* 14393–14396.

III.—*Growth of Barley.*

1. Extended growth of; substitution of for wheat.

If more barley grown wheat would be better, *Cortis* 1900——Growth of barley might be more extended in England if the demand was increased, *Sanders* 6827. *Calthrop* 7856–7858——It might be grown to any extent in Ireland, *Shawe*, 14393–14396——In Scotland, *Robertson* 13662——Growth of barley increasing, *Langhorn* 7590, 7591——Less wheat sown this year from barley bearing a higher price, *Oliphant* 11276–11278——How far the disproportion in price between barley and wheat may cause an increase in the growth of barley, *Smallpiece* 3148–3156, 3194–3196——Higher prices being obtained for it; causes more to be grown, *Brodie* 10340——Growth of, might be increased in Huntingdonshire to meet an increased demand, *Bowyer* 3474, 3475——The growth of, cannot be much increased in Buckinghamshire, *Cortis* 1808——In Essex, *Babb*,

BARLEY: III.—*Growth of Barley*—continued.

1. Extended growth of; substitution of for wheat—*continued.*

3268, 3269——All land in Buckinghamshire capable of producing barley has been sown of late years with it, *Morton* 3959——Growth of is on the increase in Ireland, *Shawe* 14393–14396——Farmers preparing for more barley and less wheat at present, *Bowyer* 3466-3471, 3480–3482, 3566, 3567——Not advantageous to displace the wheat crop for barley, *Babbs* 3268, 3269.

Course of cropping that would be adopted on displacing wheat for barley, *Ellman* 4606–4611——Is grown to a considerable extent in the wold lands of Lincolnshire, *Iles* 7345——Not any great quantity of barley grown in Ayrshire, *Brown* 12348, 12349——It has been substituted for wheat in East Lothian, *Howden* 10002——In Roxburg, *M'Dougal* 14526–14528——More barley now grown than wheat in Scotland, *Robertson* 13609——Is considered a more certain crop than wheat, *Jacob* 288, 289——As certain a crop as wheat, *Brickwell* 534——Is the most certain crop if the season favourable, *Langhorn* 7592——It is consumed for malt as fast as it is grown, *Ellis* 10830, 10831——Barley grown in East Lothian is mainly sent to the brewers at Edinburgh, *Howden* 10004.

2. Description of land fit for the growth of.

Description of land that would be used for barley if it were more in demand, *Brickwell*, 553–556——Good barley may be grown on clay fallows, but not in any great quantity, *Cortis* 1810——It is a bad system to take barley on land more suitable to oats, *Babbs* 3270——Good state of land as to drainage in Huntingdonshire, for the purpose of growing barley, *Bowyer* 3480——Land that will not grow barley fit to malt, will grow it fit for seed to sow other land with, *Bowyer* 3549.

3. Acreable produce; good or deficient crops.

Acreable produce at Amersham, *Cortis* 1860–1862——At Beaconsfield, *Rolfe* 1573, 1574——In Surrey, *Smallpiece* 2866——In Cambridge, *Thurnall* 2272——In Essex, *Babbs* 3267——In Glamorganshire, *David* 4451——In Norfolk, *Fison* 12670–12675——Somerville Aston, *Crowther* 12789——Comparative crops 1833–1835, *Smallpiece* 2912–2916——Good crops; crop of 1835 better than the previous year in Bucks, *Brickwell* 478, 483, 484——In Huntingdonshire, as good as any of the three last years, *Bowyer* 3451, 3452——Crops of 1833 and 1834 pretty good at Denham, *Morton* 3871–3873——They turned out better than was expected at Lincoln, *Atkinson* 5972-5976.

Good crop in 1834 and 1835 in Somersetshire, *Hancock* 11360–11364——On the wolds of Lincolnshire, *Calthrop*, 8000, 8001——In Worcestershire, *Crowther* 12891–12896, 12914–12918——Very good the last three years in East Lothian, *Howden* 10086, 10087——Last year in Somersetshire, *Hancock* 11288——Deficient crops; not quite an average crop last year at Denham, *Morton* 3653——Not so good last year as previously on light lands, *Bennett* 8269, 8270; *Ellis* 10828, 10829——In Gloucestershire, *Hall* 4999——In Sussex, *Ellman* 4536–4538, 4598——The growth of barley this year rather below an average in Hampshire, *Stares* 11500, 11501——Crops of, affected by dry springs, *Rolfe* 1524–1534; *Kemp* 2144–2153; *Atkinson* 5972–5976.

IV.—*Irish and foreign importation.*

Increase in the quantity of barley-flour and malt during the last three years from Ireland to Liverpool, *Scott* 5052–5063——That imported from Hamburgh and Nantes is of good malting quality, worth within a shilling or two of our best malting barleys: it can be imported from Hamburgh at the present time under 1 *l.* per quarter, freight included, *Calthrop* 7850–7855——Prices of foreign barley; imports since 1828; quality and from whence the best comes, *Ruding* 17240–17245——Under the present system, barley from abroad principally comes for distillation and feeding cattle; its heated state renders it unfit for malting, *Hayes* 17456-17463.

V.—*Allowing the unrestricted use of barley by farmers as a means of relief.*

1. Advantages of.

Allowing farmers to malt free of duty would give relief, *Brickwell* 340–342, 345–347, 501, 502, 557–560; *Houghton* 701–707, 750, 797–802; *Rolfe* 1412–1417, 1575–1577 *Cortis* 1787–1791, 1868–1871; *Kemp* 1979–1989, 1998–2000, 2059–2061, 2070–2074; *Thurnall* 2458–2466; *Morton* 3694–3698-3987–3989; *Sherborn* 4053–4056, 4083; *Tillyer* 4202–4205; *Sanders* 6803–6806, 6812–6818; *Umbers* 8575–8578; *Neave* 9368–9372——Extent of benefit per acre, the unrestricted use of would be to farmers, *Rolfe* 1412–1417, 1575, 1577; *Thurnall* 2458–2466; *Morton* 3694–3698——It would not be of much benefit, *Iles* 7342–7344——Farmers would be enabled to use it in feeding cattle and in brewing beer for their labourers, *Brickwell* 340——If farmer permitted to malt for feeding cattle it should be confined to grain of his own growth, of which he should make a return, *Spooner* 15911–15914——Would increase the growth of barley, *Houghton* 797–802; *Kemp* 1979–1989, 1998–2000, 2059–2061, 2070–2074.

2. Impracticability and disadvantages of—

Unrestricted use of barley by the farmer is impracticable under the present excise regulations, *Ellman* 4811, 4812——There is a great doubt whether it could be done with safety to the revenue, *Sanders* 6803–6806, 6812–6818——It would open the door to fraud and would be an invidious distinction between the manufacturer and agriculturist, *Bickerton* 8785, 8786——Farmers being allowed to malt their own barley would not be practicable consistently with the protection of the revenue; their being compelled to take

Barley:—V. *Allowing the unrestricted use of Barley by Farmers as a means of relief.*—continued.

2. Impracticability and disadvantages of—*continued.*

take out a license and have their premises put under the excise, would increase the number of officers, *Hetherington* 9206–9209, 9217–9227, 9233.

See also *Agricultural Distress* 6. *Agricultural Produce. Beans. Bedford Level. Dutch Barley. Fen Lands. Foreign Barley. Growth of Wheat*, 2. *Hamburgh Harvests*, 2. *Land. Malt Duty* 3, 4, 5. *Nantes. Oats. Poor. Price of Corn*, 3, 4, 5, 11. *Rent*, 7. *Seasons. Silesian Barley. Spirits. Spring of the Year.*

Barley Bread, Was formerly almost the universal food of the peasantry in the western counties, *Jacob* 30.

Bavaria. Very little fluctuation in the price of corn since 1816 or 1817, compared with fluctuations here, *Jacob* 43.

Beans, Are as certain a crop as wheat, *Brickwell* 534——They are a less certain crop than oats, which are the most certain, and then barley and then wheat, *Howden* 10081——Are a very uncertain crop, *Crowther* 12790——Price of beans and produce per acre in Bucks, *Brickwell* 408–410, 532, 533——Not worth harvesting in 1834, *Brickwell* 478–483——Price of old beans rather too high in consequence of the deficiency, *Brickwell* 591——Farmers would wish for four shillings a quarter more on beans, *Houghton* 1016——An average crop last year at Denham, *Morton* 3653——During the last two years they have remained a drug in the markets from the quantity produced, *Bennett* 8377——Beans have been an average crop and sold at a remunerating price, *Byron* 8394, 8395——They have not been an average crop and the price has been low, *Umbers* 8475, 8476——They are a very unproductive crop in the Isle of Thanet, *Cramp* 9497.

See also *Cattle* 4. *Spring Crops.*

Bere. Is a coarse description of barley, and is used in malting, *Walker* 10513, 10514——Cultivation of bere in Aberdeenshire, and market to which sent, *Walker* 10644–10647.

Bedford, Duke of. Nearly the whole estate has been re-let within the last five years, principally to the same tenants, at a reduction of from 10 to 12 per cent. on rents, *Bennett* 8112–8120——Improvements have been partly done by the Duke of Bedford and partly by tenants, *Bennett* 8265, 8266——Were partly done to keep labourers employed under the old poor law, *Bennett* 8267——The duke's estate has improved its condition and its state of cultivation within the last five years, *Bennett* 8325, 8326.

See also *Agricultural Labourers*, 1. *Bone Manure.*

Bedford Level. Will grow barley fit for seed in the uplands, *Bowyer* 3620.

Beef. Price of, per lb. in Buckingham market, *Brickwell* 362——At Cardiff market, *David* 4376——It has been getting up since Christmas, *Morton* 3868——Is affected in a great degree by the rot in sheep, *David* 4299.

See also *Meat.*

Beer:

1 *Generally.*
2 *Act for the sale of.*
3 *Beer Duty.*
4 *Beer Shops.*

1. *Generally.*

Number of barrels of beer that can be brewed out of a quarter of malt, when brewing for home consumption, *Brickwell* 562——Three barrels of beer are brewed from a quantity of malt from which two were formerly, consequently there is less malt used and more hops, *Hetherington* 9235–9241——It would be no benefit either to the farmer or labourer if there were more barley consumed in beer in Bedford than is at present, *Bennett* 8311, 8312——More malt liquor used in Shropshire than in any other county, *Bickerton* 8779–8781——There is no place where beer of worse quality goes into consumption than London; the observation applies to the retailers, and not to the great porter brewers, *Dunlop* 9168, 9169——Men drinking beer made from malt would be fatter than those drinking beer made from unmalted corn, *Dunlop* 9185——That made from malt alone is better than that made from malt and barley, *Dunlop* 9190——Many of the farmers in Aberdeen use brewery beer, *Walker* 10648——Brewers make beer from barley mixed with malt; brewers' beer refused by some farming labourers in Scotland, *Dunlop* 9167——Has never been the general beverage of the Scotch labourers, *Robertson* 13660.

2. *Act for the sale of.*

Has increased the consumption of barley, *Kemp* 2145——Effect on the price of barley, *Fison* 12675——Bad effects thereof on the morals of the labourers, *Hancock* 11399——It was the worst Act that ever passed, *Freeland* 14959–14962, 14968, 14969.

3. *Beer Duty.*

Removal of, has not made much difference in the price of barley, *Brickwell* 561——Has increased the price, *Rolfe* 1740–1743; *Smallpiece* 2917; *Morton* 3699; *David* 4300; *Bickerton* 8796–8802; *Ellis* 10832, 10833; *Fison* 12668, 12669——Has increased the consumption of barley and malt, *Brickwell* 606–608; *Kemp* 2145; *Smallpiece* 2917; *Bowyer* 3467–3472, 3487; *Bickerton* 8796–8802; *Fison* 12668, 12669——Taking off the beer duty is not of that advantage that taking off the malt duty would have been, *Brickwell* 501, 502, 572–579——Re-imposition of the beer tax would be better than a reduction of the malt duty, *Freeland* 14931–14935.

BEER:—continued.

4. *Beer Shops.*

If unrestricted use of barley allowed, it would keep labourers away from those pernicious places, *Brickwell* 341——The repeal of the malt tax would do away with the evils of the beer shops, *Bickerton* 8792——Condition of labourers much worse since the establishment of beer shops, *Iles* 7424——Demoralizing effect of, *Bickerton* 8796–8802; *Hancock* 11399; *Boniface* 13276–13280; *Freeland* 14959–14962; *Spooner* 15898–15910——Very few steady agricultural labourers that go to the beer shops, *Umbers* 8576.

See also *Agricultural Labourers*, 1. *Barley*, 1, 2. *Cattle*, 3. *Chevalier Barley*. *Clay Lands*, 6. *Malt Duty*, 1, 3.

Bell, William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Occupying 550 imperial acres in the county of Berwick, 11820–11823——Usual period of leases, which are generally let at money rents, 11824, 11828——Amount of poors' rate paid in equal proportions by landlord and tenant, 11836, 11837——Stipulations in leases binding tenants to a system of good husbandry, 11838, 11839——Five-course husbandry considered the best; the six-course has latterly been adopted by witness, from stock and wool having been higher than corn, 11840, 11841——Average annual expenses on a farm in Berwickshire measuring 420 imperial acres, of which about two-thirds is adapted for turnip husbandry, and about one-third wheat land; all in tillage; rent 920*l.*, 11842–11846——Farm buildings are put into good condition by the landlord when the tenant takes possession, the tenant keeping them in repair, 11853–11855.

Amount required to be laid out for manure, 11856–11859——Amount of capital required, and per centage that should be obtained thereon, 11866–11868——The farm has been farmed to a profit during the last three years, 11872–11877, 11887, 11896, 11898——Mode of draining pursued, 11879–11881——The condition of the farmer in Berwickshire is, in general, in a most satisfactory state, 11888——There have been three or four very abundant wheat crops in succession, 11891——The redundant produce of Ireland being brought into consumption has depressed price, 11892——Improvements on witness's farm have caused it to yield a profit; the draining that has been done has paid itself, but has not been sufficient to affect the general return, 11897–11909——At present prices of corn, stock is absolutely necessary for cultivating a farm with profit, 11913–1192——Draining ought to precede all other improvements, 11925.

Increased consumption in the London market of fat stock has increased the price in Berwickshire, 11926-11928——Berwickshire farmers have gained by the scarcity of turnips on the southern farms, 11929–11934——The rot in England was a benefit to the farms in Berwickshire not visited with that calamity, 11935–11946——Capital of farmers is not diminished in Berwickshire in the last sixteen years, but may be something improved, 11951–11959——No reason why distress should exist in Northumberland, it is a well-farmed county, and keeps a great quantity of stock, 11960–11962——Higher species of food in Ireland is not consumed by the population, but exported, 11963–11965——Effect of the Bank Restriction Act in 1797, and the resumption of cash payments in 1819, on causing a rise and fall of prices subsequently to those periods, 11966–11980——The banking system of Scotland gives a greater security for the issue of one-pound notes than the banking system of England, 11981–11988.

Persons of good credit in Northumberland can get such accommodation as they deserve, 11991——Mode of accommodation is by discounts in England and cash credits in Scotland, 11992–11995——There never was greater facility of accommodation in Scotland than there is now, 11996——Price that would be remunerating for wheat, barley and oats in Scotland, 11999-12001——Whether the greater taxation borne by the English farmer causes him to require a higher price for his produce than the Scotch farmer, 12002–12004——Upholding prices to assist the farmer, would be at the expense of the consumer, 12005——Rent should be assimilated to prices, 12006——The burthens on a farm must be taken into account in ascertaining the rent it will bear, 12007, 12008——In estimating profit and loss, the price of flocks must be taken into account as well as the price of grain, 12013–12015.

Great demand for farms by tenants, particularly on turnip soils; as high rents paid as twenty years ago, 12016–12018——Clay lands let readily at fair rents, 12019——Improvement in the price of meat attributed to the increase and prosperity of the commercial and manufacturing interests, 12021–12025——The present corn laws give the protection of a monopoly of the market, 12031–12041——A fixed duty would make the prices more uniform, 12031–12035——Fluctuation in the price of wool and tallow when subject to a fixed duty, 12036, 12037——Foreign corn imported is the surplus of Europe, 12038——A fixed duty might cause more land to be brought into the cultivation of corn on the Continent, though they might take some British produce in exchange, 12039, 12040——A fixed duty should be laid on as high as the country could bear it, and be reduced gradually to a nominal amount, which would give time for land to find its natural value, 12042, 12043——Four-course husbandry on clay lands is injurious, and cannot be maintained without a great deal of foreign manure, 12044, 12045.

The higher rent on witness's land could not be paid but for the improved cultivation, 12046–12050——Cost per acre of liming, and period that it lasts, 12051–12057——Cost of furrow-draining, which is considered a permanent improvement, 12058–12062——Duty on clover-seed should be removed, to upset the monopoly enjoyed by the few English counties that grow it; Dutch clover fully as good as the English, 12064–12074——Seven shillings a bushel may be maintained for wheat under the present corn laws, 12075-12079——A total remission of the malt tax would benefit the farmer; but as some other tax must be imposed, some other interest must suffer, 12080–12084——A property tax should not be imposed, except in the last necessity, 12085.

643

Bell, William. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

(Second Examination.)—State, showing the average annual expenditure for a farm in the county of Berwick, and the returns and profit on the said farm for crop and year 1835, 12381.

Bennett, Thomas. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Steward to the Duke of Bedford, 8181——Farmers in Bedfordshire are better than in 1833, 8184——Attributed to the decreased amount of poors' rates under the new poor law, 8185–8193——The Birmingham railroad and the manufacturing districts have taken many of the labourers that were out of employment in 1833, 8194–8197——Wages are sufficient to find labourers in the necessaries of life, 8198, 8199——Better understanding between master and servant, in consequence of the new poor law, 8200, 8201——Few farms in Bedfordshire untenanted; the new poor law has caused one farm to be let which was in landlord's hands two years, 8202–8205——Advantage of draining, particularly with regard to spring crops, 8206–8210——At the last Christmas audit the Duke of Bedford's rents were never better paid, 8211, 8212.

Nearly the whole estate has been relet within the last five years, principally to the same tenants, at a reduction of from ten to twelve per cent. on rents, 8112–8120——Tenants on the estate will be able to pay their rents with wheat at from 5*s.* to 6*s.* a bushel for the next seven years, 8221–8227——A flock of sheep almost necessary to the farmer, though wheat used to be the paying crop, 8228–8236——Estimate of expense of cultivation and also of produce on an acre of strong land, 8237–8241——Extent of loss by rot in Bedfordshire in 1828 and 1829, 8242–8245——Three hundred per cent. rise in the price of wool, occasioned by the rot and by increased consumption, 8246–8258——Estimated price of wool on letting farms, 8259–8262——Good crops since 1833 have been partly from good management and partly the result of seasons, 8263, 8264——Improvements have been partly done by the Duke of Bedford and partly by tenants, 8265, 8266.

Improvements were done partly to employ the labourers under the old poor law, 8267——In the northern part of Bedfordshire there are not more labourers than can be employed; in the southern part there are, 8275——Migration to manufacturing districts causes those who remain to be better off, 8276–8279——Comparative state of harvests and farming, and prices from 1822, 8280–8290——Rise in the price of fat cattle since Christmas attributed to deficient supply, 8292–8295——Late rise in the price of wheat attributed to the last crop not being so good as the preceding ones, to consumption of wheat in feeding cattle, and to less wheat being sown last autumn, 8296–8300——Little benefit would be derived from taking off the malt tax, except as regards allowing farmers to malt inferior barleys for feeding cattle, 8303–8312——Labourers who have gone into the manufacturing districts have been prosperous; there is a great desire on the part of others to go, but judgment is required in sending them, 8313–8318.

The Duke's estate has improved its condition and its state of cultivation within the last five years, 8325, 8326——The tenants are as prosperous as they always were, their habits are not less expensive, 8327–8329——Wheat boiled is more nutritious than in a ground state, 8335–8337——Produce per acre on clay and light lands on the estate, 8338, 8339——Comparative prices of wheat and barley, and prices of each that would be remunerating on those lands, 8340–8350——Allotments have been made successfully; they are restricted to a quarter of an acre, 8356–8358——Labouring classes are more comfortable in consequence of them, 8360–8362——Export of long combing wool to the Continent, 8363–8366——Further advantages of the new poor law shown by the few people in the workhouse or receiving relief, 8367–8371——Spring crops on cold soils not so good in 1833 as last year, 8378–8380.

Berkshire. The county rate amounts to fourpence in the pound on the rental, *Houghton*, 820.

Berwick. Extent to which circulation has diminished in Berwick, *Langhorn* 7567–7569——Town of Berwick as regards extension of trade has been standing still these 20 years, *Langhorn* 7689–7691.

See also *Banks, Country*, 1.

Betchworth Esate. Sale thereof, and state of land, *Smallpiece* 3006–3010.

Bethlem Hospital. Prices of provisions at Bethlem Hospital from 1815 to 1835, *App. II., p.* 284.

Bickerton, Samuel. (Analysis of his Evidence)—Farmer of about 400 acres of mixed turnip and wheat soil at Sanford, in the parish of West-Filton, near Oswestry, Shropshire, 8659–8665.——Farmers are worse off than in 1833, 8666–8670——Price of wheat per strike of 75lbs. at Christmas and since, 8671, 8672——Acreable produce, which has been rather greater during the last three years, 8673, 8674——Clay soils in a worse state of cultivation, and the farmers in a worse condition than a few years ago, 8675–8677——Rental value of a clay farm ten years ago belonging to the Countess of Bridgewater, for which a tenant cannot now be obtained, 8678–8682——Less wheat sown this year than in 1835, 8683——Profit and loss on the cultivation of an acre of land on the five-course system, 8684–8687.

Instances of farmers who have left their occupations and become day labourers, 8691–8693——Farming tradesmen's bills are considerably higher than they were 30 years ago, 8694–8695——Eight shillings a bushel for wheat would be remunerating, 8697, 8698——Price of meat has got up considerably within the last four months

Bickerton, Samuel. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

from the failure of the turnip crop, 8699, 8700——Agricultural distress is occasioned by the low price of corn in proportion to the expense of growing it, 8705——Low prices attributed to imports from Ireland; increased quantity of wheat to make up for deficient price, and foreign grain coming into competition with English 8706–8708——Total or partial repeal of the malt tax would be beneficial to the farmer, and would increase the growth of barley, 8709–8712——Good barley can be grown on clay lands that have been well drained, 8713, 8714——Rate of wages, 8715, 8716——Iron and coal works in the neighbourhood take off superabundant labour, 8716, 8717.

Advantages of the allotment system; as much land given as will keep a cow, 8718–8725——Repeal of the duty on clover-seed would be beneficial to that part of Shropshire, where witness resides, 8726——Clover, a very uncertain crop, 8727, 8728——Poors' rates low, county rate paid out of it, 8729–8732——Amount paid for statute duty, 8733, 8734——Advantage of a commutation of tithe; it should be commuted upon a rent-charge, according to the value of land, on an average of years, 8736–8740——Joint stock banks give greater accommodation than the old private banks did, 8741–8743——Averages should be amended by both buyer and seller making returns, 8744, 8745——Parochial return of the quantity of land sown with grain would be advantageous, but there would be difficulty in getting a correct return from the farmers, 8746–8750.

Moral and intellectual state of farmers is superior to what it was forty years ago, there is more intelligence and knowledge of business, 8751–8756——Manner in which bonded corn is injurious by causing speculation for a reduction of duties in order to admit it into consumption, 8757——A fixed duty should be imposed equivalent to the taxation, direct and indirect, that falls on grain grown here; 30*s.* proposed, doubts whether that or 15*s.* could be maintained in scarce years, 8758–8768——Nature and quality of the land is the cause that the farm of the Countess of Bridgewater which is untenanted, cannot be let, 8769–8772——Part of the malt duty might be taken off without injury to the revenues; it would increase the consumption of barley and oats; it should not be taken off at the expense of letting in foreign barley, duty free, 8773–8784——Allowing farmers to malt their own grain would open the door to fraud, and would be an invidious distinction between the manufacturer and agriculturist, 8785, 8786——Five millions of other taxes could not be laid on as an equivalent for the malt tax, unless by a property tax, and income tax is bad in principle, 8787–8791.

Repealing the malt tax would cause farmers to have more domestics in their houses, and cause labourers to brew their own beer, 8792–8795——Demoralizing effect of beer shops, they tend to consume malt and raise the price of barley; there would be a greater tendency to consume malt if labourers allowed to brew their own beer, 8796–8802——Pecuniary condition of farmers worse than it was a few years ago, 8803——Joint stock banks will grant accommodation to a farmer of good habits on the security of another farmer, 8805–8811——Further evidence in favour of commutation of tithe either upon the value of the land or the value of the produce, 8812–8820——Losses by the rot have not been wholly supplied, 8827–8831——Any advantage the upland farmer gained was at the expense of the lowland farmer, 8832–8834——Late rise in the price of wheat, caused partly by speculation and partly by less wheat being sown, 8835——More stock in the hands of farmers now than there was ten or fifteen years ago, 8836–8838.

There is not more than usual in the hands of millers and factors; there is some in the hands of private speculators, 8839, 8840——More speculation in wheat in the last two months than for many years, 8841——Nature of crops on the uplands during the last three years, and how affected by the weather, 8844–8847——Cold lands would require wheat at 6*s.* or 7*s.* a bushel, without rent, 8850——Increased breadth of wheat, 8852–8856——Abundant crops will, to a certain extent, pay the expense of draining at present prices, though not eventually, 8859–8862——Number of freeholders has diminished from depressed prices, 8863–8865——Complaints by tradesmen dependent on agricultural population, 8866–8869——Rents are paid at the expense of tradesmen and friends, 8870–8872, 8905——Comparative low and high prices of wheat in former years, 8873–8880——Present wages cannot be paid at the present price of produce, 8881–8883——Evidence in favour of a property tax and against an income tax, 8884–8900——Mode of draining, 8901–8904——Failure of shopkeepers in rural districts, 8906–8908.

Bills of Exchange. Small bills of exchange formerly used in Lancashire have, since the higher rate of stamp duties were imposed, very much diminished, *Burgess* 15931–11934——They formed a most essential portion of the circulating medium up to 1825, since when their circulation has diminished, *Burgess* 15935.

See also *Bank of England Notes. Joint Stock Banks. Manufacturing Districts.*

Biscuits. Unsound corn as well adapted for the making biscuits as the best corn, *Frean* 15285–15294——Manner in which the competition in the biscuit trade could be maintained with Dantzic and Hamburgh, if foreign corn allowed out of bond, *Frean* 15351–15356.

See also *Bonded Corn*, 6.

Birmingham. Manner in which the trade of Birmingham has increased in the last two years; mode by which business is carried on between America and Birmingham, *Muntz* 16539–16557——Political character of the town of Birmingham has only altered from their depressed circumstances, *Muntz* 16611–16614.

645

Birmingham Manufactures. Want of profit on Birmingham manufactures is caused by competition with the Continent, *Muntz* 16558–16561——Evils of the present speculative advance in prices, and manner in which it causes Birmingham manufactures to be superseded by the Continent, *Muntz* 16633–16637.

Birmingham Political Union. Its formation was in consequence of distress, and the opinion that Government did not attend to the wants of the people, *Muntz* 16452–16457.

Birmingham Railroad, Employment of agricultural labourers on, from Bedfordshire, *Bennett* 8194–8197——From Warwickshire, *Umbers* 8511.

Blacker, William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Names of proprietors in different counties in Ireland of whose estates witness has the management, 15360–15363——In the flax-growing counties the tenantry have improved, from the high return that flax makes; it has in a great degree been substituted for wheat, 15364–15366——Size of farms is small, 15367——Nature of the four-course system of cropping, which is now getting more into use, 15369–15372——Flax if sown with clover and grass is the best for laying down land with, 15373——Expense of cultivating an acre of flax, produce per acre, 15374–15378——Manner in which demand for foreign flax by mill-spinners destroyed the home growth; failure of the continental crop has caused increased growth, 15379——Duty on foreign flax did not exist of late years, 15380–15382——Small farmers get employed on the roads or by task-work, 15383——System of agricultural labour as in England is scarcely known in Ireland, 15384.

Employment of labourers depends upon the size of a farmer's family, 15386–15388——Advantages of manure for land and the house-feeding of cattle for that purpose, 15395, 15396——Cultivation of flax in Ireland may be greatly extended; it may be grown on every farm to a limited extent, but should be laid down with grass and clover, 15397–15401——Growth of flax should be protected in the same way grain now is, 15401–15403——Cost of cultivating an acre of wheat in Ireland is less than flax; mode adopted, 15404——Rotation and produce of a five-acre farm, 15405——Mr. Anderson's statement as agriculturist on Richhill estate, county Armagh, 15405——Mr. Greer's statement; turnips viewed in the Richhill Branch Farming Society on the 9th and 10th November 1835, 15405——Clover viewed on 8th and 9th June, 15405.

A small farmer in Armagh would be remunerated with wheat at 45*s.* to 48*s.* per quarter, but Irish grain is 5*s.* to 6*s.* under the English averages, and 8*s.* to 10*s*, under prime samples, 15406——Extent of turnip cultivation and comparative merits of turnips and potatoes for feeding cattle, 15409–15412——Rate of wages which are different in different districts of Ireland, 15414–15420——Tenantry are decidedly better now than they were a few years after the peace; they have been suffering for a long time from the gradual decline of prices, 15421–15424——Rise and fall of prices depend on the quantity of money in the market and the facility of getting it, and also upon the supply and demand, 15425——Return to cash payments was a severe blow to the tenantry, but had not so much effect on labourers, 15426–15429——The greater demand for labour caused by increased cultivation and prosperity of manufactures has increased wages, 15430, 15431.

Mr. Peel's Bill of 1819 was a severe infliction on landlords having incumbrances on their estates, which has prevented so liberal a reduction as would have taken place, though necessity compelled a reduction, 15433–15436——Increased exports from Ireland do not always show the prosperity of the country, as fixed rents and falling prices may induce the tenantry to bring more produce to market, 15437–15444——The difficulty of the landlord abating his rent has increased the exertions of the tenants; if the whole rent was given up it would not compensate for the fall in the price of produce, 15445, 15446——Mr. Peel's Bill was very severe upon persons with fixed incomes, 15447, 15448——Notes are an advantage to Ireland, and would be more so if there were one pound notes in England, 15451–15453——Extent to which the establishment of banks in Ireland has benefited the farmers, 15454–15461.

There has been a decided gradual improvement in the agricultural population all over the kingdom for some years past, 15462–15464——Further advantages of joint stock banks and security to the public by their being compelled to pay their notes in gold, 15465–15468——Panic in 1825 would not have taken place if only those banks had issued notes who showed a capital beyond the reach of insolvency, 15469, 15470——Failure of banks in Ireland previous to there being one-pound notes, and also in 1821, 15471–15476——Under a system of sub-letting, a fall in prices will produce derangement, though a small farmer following a proper rotation will pay his rent when a large farmer cannot, 15477–15481——Extent of reduction that has taken place in rent from the war prices, but if the whole had been taken off it would not have compensated for the low prices, 15482–15487——Whether high rents and falling prices have not caused greater exertions to be made in improving cultivation than would have been if farmers had remained prosperous, 15488, 15489——Comparative state of the farmer now and during the war; gradual improvement going on more or less almost everywhere, 15490–15493.

Clay lands of England might be improved by the growth of more green food, and keeping a proper quanttiy of stock for manure, and well liming and draining the land; which system would cause them to produce three times as much as they do now, 15497, 15500——Tabular view of an experiment on feeding cattle on different kinds of food, as tried at Caledon in winter 1835-6, 15500——Letter from Walter James Dawson, Esq., of Dundalk,

Blacker, William. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

Dundalk, on the different modes of fattening cattle, 15500——Statement of Thomas Knox Armstrong, Esq., on the same subject, 15500,——Comparative qualities of potatoes and turnips for feeding cattle, 15500.——Clay land can be well applied to flax, potatoes and mangel wurzel, 15501.

Present difficulties arise from a contraction of the currency and a redundancy of produce; the former should be met by an issue of one-pound notes payable in gold, with a security by the bank against loss, and the latter by applying some portion of the land to the growth of other crops, 15502——Increase duty that should be placed on the importation of foreign butter, 15503–15505——In what manner there should be a duty on flax the same as on corn, 15506——Corn Laws have acted as a prohibition, and show that the soil is capable of producing as much agricultural produce as is wanted for consumption, 15507——Opinion in favour of a fixed duty of 20*s.*, which will be paid by the producer and not by the consumer in this country; whether it can be levied in times of scarcity; necessity for protecting the home growth, 15506–15542——Different modes of reclaiming bog lands that have been adopted in Ireland, 15543–15550, 15553, 15557–15561.

Under an improved system the bog lands of Ireland may be successfully cultivated, 15551, 15554——Importance of reclaiming them for employment of the poor without the necessity of emigration, 15555, 15556——Extent to which they might be made favourable to the growth of flax, 15562, 15563——Erection of flour mills has caused the exportation of flour from Ireland, 15564, 15565——The rents in Armagh, Tyrone and Cavan are as low as in any other parts of the British dominions, but still the tenants have not so good a bargain as during the war, 15566–15568——If there is a protecting duty on flax, present rents can be maintained in Ireland with wheat at 6*s.* a bushel; even 5*s.* would be remunerative under an improved system of cultivation, 15569.

Board of Trade. Do not object to grinding corn in bond; their objection is to the substitution of flour, *Frean* 15302.

Bog Land, Ireland. Immense quantities of bog land in the different baronies fit for reclamation, many of them with very little labour, *Clarke* 13883, 13884——Under an improved system, the bog lands of Ireland may be successfully cultivated, *Blacker* 15551, 15554——Importance of reclaiming them for employment of the poor without the necessity of emigration, *Blacker* 15555, 15556——Extent to which they might be made favourable to the growth of flax, *Blacker* 15562, 15563——Lime and lime-gravel used in reclaiming bogs, *Clarke* 13908–13910——Amount per acre paid for reclaiming bog lands, and amount of rent, per acre, paid for such lands afterwards, *Clarke* 13915–13917——Mode of reclaiming bog lands, *Shawe* 14532–14354——Different modes of reclaiming bog lands that have been adopted in Ireland, *Blacker* 15543–15550, 15553, 15557–15561——Red or high bogs when reclaimed may produce good crops, but do not pay the expense of the improvement, *Shawe* 14362–14366——Cut bog does pay for cultivation; depth at which the original surface is first cut, *Shawe* 14494–14496——Impracticable to raise an artificial surface on flow bogs, the bogs being above the level of the adjacent rivers should be tapped, *Brassington* 14772–14774.

See also *Capital,* 5.

Bonded Corn:

1. *Quantity of Corn in Bond generally, and at Liverpool and Plymouth.*
2. *Evils of the system of Bonding Corn.*
3. *Advantages that would result from allowing Bonded Wheat to be ground into flour for exportation, and from the renewal of the Grinding Act.*
4. *Objections to grinding Corn in Bond, and to Bonding Mills.*
5. *Liverpool plan for the liberation of Bonded Corn; advantages and disadvantages.*
6. *Plymouth plan for the liberation of Bonded Corn; advantages and disadvantages.*

1. *Quantity of Corn in Bond generally, and at Liverpool and Plymouth.*

Quantity of corn under bond in this country has slightly increased within the last twelvemonth, *Jacob* 79——Quantity of corn in bond at present and before the ports were closed, *Jacob* 113–115——Quantity of foreign corn in bond, *Sanders* 6050——Considerable quantity of corn remaining in bond in Liverpool; average loss thereon per annum, *Scott* 5270–5277, 5285——Quantity of wheat in bonded warehouses at Liverpool in January last, *Scott* 5316, 5317——Number of quarters of bonded corn at Plymouth at present, and price at which laid in, *Frean* 15296, 15297.

2. *Evils of the system of Bonding Corn.*

The quantity of foreign corn in bond only operates on the British markets when price is high, *Hodgson* 6469-6473——Reason why the system of, highly injurious to the British growers of corn, *David* 4328–4332——Bonded corn deadens the market under the present system, more than if it could be admitted at all times, but the apprehension mostly exceeds the reality, *Hodgson* 6583–6585——Manner in which it acts as a dead weight upon the market, and prevents speculation in English corn, *Calthrop* 7953–7957——Bonding foreign corn one of the greatest difficulties the farmer has to complain of, he being compelled to pay the duty in the shape of taxation on his own corn before it goes into his rick-yard *Umbers* 8526, 8527——Manner in which bonded corn is injurious, by causing

Bonded Corn:—2. *Evils of the system of Bonding Corn*—continued.

causing speculation for a reduction of duties in order to admit it into consumption, *Bickerton* 8757——Evidence as to witness's proposition respecting liberating bonded corn when price below 50 *s.*; effect as to warehousing abroad, *David* 4383–4396.

3. *Advantages that would result from allowing Bonded Wheat to be ground into flour for exportation, and from the renewal of the Grinding Act.*

Allowing wheat now in bond to be ground into flour for exportation would be of advantage to the agriculturist, *Hodgson* 6362–6364——Proposition for taking foreign corn out of bond, and replacing it with British, would show a state of things unfavorable to foreign corn merchants, *Rolfe* 1570–1572——If either of the plans for grinding corn for exportation were carried into effect, it might induce dealers to hold foreign corn, but it ought not to create alarm in the minds of the farmers, *Hodgson* 6474, 6475——If either the grinding foreign corn or the substitution of English for it allowed, English activity and energy will be able to compete with the sellers of flour at Dantzic or Hamburg, *Frean* 15301——Opinion in favour of allowing foreign corn to be ground in bond or in mills under bond, *Ruding* 17150–17157——Principles of the Grinding Act of 1824, and impossibility of committing frauds under it, *Hayes* 17294–17303——Advantages that would result to the agriculturist from the renewal of the Grinding Act, by allowing the export to the West Indies, &c. during the period the Baltic ports are closed, and also in preventing ships victualling in foreign ports, *Hayes* 17305–17309.

4. *Objections to grinding Corn in Bond, and to Bonding Mills.*

Objections to grinding the corn in bond, *Frean* 15282–15285——Witness's opinion not altogether unfavourable to the grinding corn in bond; impossible to injure the agriculturist by it, *Frean* 15303–15309——Objections to grinding corn in bond and bonding mills, *Hayes* 17303, 17304.

5. *Liverpool plan for the liberation of Bonded Corn; advantages and disadvantages.*

Principle of the proposition for allowing the grinding of English or Irish corn, and bonding it for exportation under debenture; advantage of the plan, particularly as being a security against low prices, and particularly by checking the American flour trade by allowing export to the West Indies, *Sanders* 6050–6059——Returning only a certain portion of flour into bond would not be advantageous, *Sanders* 6060——Advantages of the plan proposed in the memorial from Liverpool to the Board of Trade, for allowing flour to be exported on debenture, and for releasing an equivalent in bonded corn according to the state of the market, *Hodgson* 6372, 6373.

Allowing interest on debentures would be an additional inducement to parties to export, *Sanders* 6053, 6054——Advantage of the Liverpool plan, and opinion against placing a limit on the price of corn for allowing debentures to be brought into the market, *Hodgson* 6454–6460; *Hayes* 17340–17342——Effect of the Liverpool plan being acted on under a fixed duty, by giving a bounty to the exporter in the event of low prices, *Hodgson* 6488–6495——Advantage to the landed interest of an exportation of flour under debenture, but which would be inoperative under a fixed duty, *Sanders* 7034–7038——Disadvantages of the system of debentures as proposed by the Liverpool petition, *Frean* 15344–15347——Advantage of the Liverpool plan of debentures over the renewal of the Grinding Act, and in what way it would benefit the consumer and agriculturist, *Hayes* 17311–17315.

6. *Plymouth plan for the liberation of Bonded Corn; advantages and disadvantages.*

Petition of merchants and others interested in the grain trade, at the port of Plymouth, for allowing bonded corn to be delivered out to grind, and flour bonded, *Frean* 15359——Petition of the merchants and others interested in the grain trade at the port of Plymouth, with respect to bonded corn, *pp.* 103, 104——Advantage to the agriculturists of adopting the prayer of the petition from Plymouth, for allowing corn in bond to be ground into flour for exportation, *Hodgson* 6362–6371——Effect of the Plymouth plan in causing greater foreign importation, and thereby increasing the capital of the country and the value of every commodity in it, *Hodgson* 6450–6453.

If free from fraud the landed interest could not suffer by the Plymouth plan, the only risk would be the chance of fraud, *Hodgson* 6535, 6536——Object of the petition from Plymouth relative to the grinding of flour was in consequence of the biscuit baking of the colonies having since 1825 been transferred into the hands of foreigners, *Frean* 15254–15259——Examination upon the quantity of wheat proposed to be liberated and flour to be returned into bond for exportation, showing advantage to the agriculturist, *Frean* 15274–15276——Detail of the advantages that would result from the proposed plan to the agriculturist, *Frean* 15295——Farmers are in favour of the Plymouth plan, and might easily be got to sign the petition, *Frean* 15348–15350.

See also *Biscuits. Board of Trade. Bran. Fixed Duty*, 1. *Foreign Corn. Ships.*

Bonding Mills. See *Bonded Corn.*

Bone Manure. Bones areused in the neighbourhood of Buckingham; several loads sent to the Duke of Bedford's, *Brickwell* 499——Bone manure has increased progressively in Lincolnshire within the last 10 years, *Iles* 7441, 7443, 7445——The use of bones as manure has been going on during the low price of wheat, *Iles* 7512——But for the introduction of bones thousands of acres could not have been brought into cultivation, *Houghton* 1070–

Bone Manure—continued.

1072——Rents have increased on wold lands from its introduction, *Houghton* 1325–1330 ——The introduction of, has greatly improved cultivation in the East Riding of York, *Howard* 5509——Has been the cause of increased wheat on the upland farms, *Iles* 7385–7387——Bone manure will cause turnips to be grown on the tops of mountains, *Oliphant* 11128, 11129——Advantage of the application of bone dust to the inferior soils of England, *Oliphant* 11089–11092, 11236.

It does not answer on the description of soil in the neighbourhood of Beaconsfield, *Rolfe* 1475——Will not do in the neighbourhood of Bedfont; horse manure prevents light dressings taking effect, *Sherborn* 4128——Is not used on all clay lands, *Atkinson* 5839——Dry soils have been manured with bone dust, *Robertson* 13607——Bone dust is extremely beneficial, but is only applicable to the gravel or light soils, and not to clay lands, *M'Dougal* 13531, 14532——Bones are used for turnips only; they are obtained from abroad, *Atkinson* 5991–5993——Is very little used in the county of Bedford, *Bennett* 8319.

Extent to which bones are used in East Lothian, *Brodie* 10499–10500——Quantity of bone dust and fold-yard manure used per acre, *Walker* 10521–10525——Is only used by farmers with large capital, *Stares* 11634——Expense per acre of bone dust, *Stares* 11734–11736——The introduction of bone manure, of late, has been on a very small scale, *Spooner*, 15697——Number of tons of bones imported from 1821 to 1835, intended to be used as manure, *App. I. p.* 214.

See also *Bagshot Heath. Draining. Produce of Corn. Scotch Cattle.*

Boniface, Thomas. (Analysis of his Evidence).——Farmer of 300 acres, at Climping, near Littlehampton, Sussex, 13117–13119——Condition of the farmers deteriorated in the last three or four years, 13123——Rent of clay land, which is badly paid, though material reductions have been made, 13126–13127——Amount of poor's rates, 13128, 13129——Reduction of poor's rates in the union of Hampnott since the Poor Law Bill, 13130–13132 ——The bill has produced a considerable moral improvement in labourers; the condition of those with a large family is considerably worse, 13133——No difficulty in getting tenants for farms out of lease, though they have not always been men with sufficient capital for the occupations they have taken; the farms let at reduced rents, 13136–13140 ——Improvements by draining took place principally from 1823 to 1825, which has increased produce, but not paid a fair interest from the low prices of corn, 13142–13147 ——Farmers on stock farms have done better where the rot did not affect them, 13151–13153——Twenty shillings in the pound paid for poors' rates in a parish in the eastern part of Sussex, 13156–13158.

Instance showing why the Poor Law Bill will throw a man with a large family out of the labour market, 13159–13161——Migration of one man and his family to the manufacturing districts; doubts as to his success, 13162–13167——Different parishes in Sussex in which the landlords have assisted emigration, 13168——Wages have been paid in reference to the sum on which a man can live, and not in reference to the value of labour, 13169–13171——Riots in 1830 rose wages, which have never been reduced in proportion to the price of wheat, 13171–13173——Rise in poors' rates during the last 10 years from the incapability to employ labourers, from low prices, 13177–13179——Cause of rents falling in 1821 was from the low price of wheat and other produce, and the change in the currency, 13181–13189——Failure of turnip crop, and sheep being fed on corn and cake raised the price of meat, but which rise does not pay the farmer for the extra expense of feeding sheep, 13190–13193.

Circumstances have arisen which have altered the proportions in price between other agricultural produce and wheat, but they will eventually return to be regulated by the price of wheat, 13194–13196——Extent of the rot in Sussex, 13199–13209——Manner in which the low price of wheat will be a natural cause of more being sown in the Weald of Sussex, 13207–13214——State of the harvests in 1820 and 1821, 13216–13219—— Witness's farm could be let on the same terms on which it is held at present, 13221, 13222 ——Prudent men will not take a lease, being of opinion that the House of Commons and ministers are unfavourable to the corn laws, and that, if they are repealed, prices would be lower, 13222–13225——Steadiness of price is important to a man taking a farm on lease, but with wheat at 40*s.* he would not take a lease for 21 years, 13226–13234——The Weald of Sussex could not grow wheat at 32*s.* to 36*s.*, 13235–13237.

During the last five or six years there has been a surplus of labourers on the heavy soils in Sussex, but the men are better employed now than they have been, 13238, 13239—— Apparent surplus of labourers arose from the conduct of the men themselves while under the old system of poor laws, aided by the beer shops, 13241, 13242——Low prices caused want of employment, which, with the misconduct of the men themselves, increased the poors' rates, 13243–13248—— The calculation that one-fourth of the sheep of the kingdom were destroyed by the rot, is nearly correct, 13249–13252——With high prices higher wages would be given, and the condition of the labourer would be benefited by the improved circumstances of his employer, 13253–13255——Opinion that there has been a hoarding of gold to a moderate extent, from the circumstance of some guineas having been circulated latterly, 10256–13258.

Since the Poor Law Bill men formerly employed on the roads are employed on the land, which will tend to increase the quantity of wheat if the price is remunerative, 13259–13262——Injurious effect in Sussex of paying part of the labour out of the poors' rates, 13263,

649

Boniface, Thomas. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

13263, 13364——Stopping relief to out parishioners will throw men with large families out of the labour market, 13265, 13292, 13293——Paying single men lower wages than married men has had the effect of causing improvident marriages, 13266–13269——Effect of contracting the currency on prices and on credit, 13270–13275——Evils of beer shops, and advantage that would result from taking off the malt tax, 13276–13280——Advantage of giving Poor Laws to Ireland, 13284, 13285——The malt tax should be repealed at all risks, except the risk of the corn laws, 13288–13291.

(Second Examination.)—Estimate of the returns and expenses of an acre of heavy clay land in the county of Sussex, for a period of four years, and examination thereon, 13827–13833——The land is very wet, and it would be very expensive to drain it, 13834, 13835——Mode adopted of draining hop gardens, 13836–13841——Difficult to keep sheep on the clay land, on account of the rot, even if it were drained, but it is susceptible of improvement if capital laid out on it, 13842–13845.

Boston. Recent period within which certain land near Boston has been brought under cultivation of wheat, *Sanders* 6828, 6829.

Bowyer, Thomas. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Resides at Buckden, in Huntingdonshire, 3425——Maltster and farmer, farming 200 acres of arable and 200 acres of grass land, 3426–3428——Great increase in the produce of corn on farms in witness's neighbourhood, 3431, 3432——Quality of wheat has improved, 3433——Low price of wheat caused by increased production, and partly from extra quantity sown, 3437——Greater quantity of potatoes grown now than formerly, 3439——Labourers now use more potatoes and less bread, 3440——Reduction of rent in witness's land, 3441–3443——No mode of relieving farmers except reduction of local taxation, or assisting him with the malt tax, 3464——Effect of removing the malt tax would be to cause more barley and less wheat to be grown, 3465——Farmers preparing for more barley and less wheat at present, 3466, 3471——Good barley grown upon the clay lands in Huntingdonshire, 3476.

Good state of land, as to drainage, in Huntingdonshire for the purpose of growing barley, 3480——Greater demand for barley occasioned by repeal of the beer duties, 3487——Malted grain might be much used in feeding cattle, 3489, 3490——Quantity of barley which clay land has produced on an average of three years, 3494–3496——Tenantry in the county at a very low ebb, 3497–3502——Nature of land under cultivation in Huntingdonshire, 3507——Twenty years ago the state of the farmer was much better than at present, 3518——Farmers grow more per acre now than formerly, 3520——Evidence proving the increased growth of wheat, 3525——Low prices of wheat have been the cause of the distress of farmers, 3536–3539——Loss by the rot in 1831, which has not been quite recovered from, 3541–3543——Price of wool 1828 and 1831, 3545——As a maltster and farmer the witness is in favour of a repeal of the malt tax, 3548——Genera appearance of overgrowing barley, 3566, 3567——Inconveniences of the excise regula tions as to malting barley are not great; if inferior barley allowed to be wetted it might be malted, 3573–3575.

Extent of tile draining greatly increased since 1833 which tends to increase produce, diminish cost of production, and tends towards remunerating price, 3576 3584——Duty on clover-seed, price per cwt. and quantity sown per acre, 3585–3592, 3600——It would be the ruin of farmers who grow clover-seed to take off the duty, 3594-3596——State of the poor better now than formerly, 3601——Labourers in witness's county better off now than formerly, 3604–3614——Breadth of wheat greatly increased in Huntingdonshire, Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire, 3615–3619——Beneficial effects of allotments of land on labourers, 3626——He is also receiving double the quantity of food he formerly did for his money, 2623–3625, 3634——Quantities of corn threshed by machines, which supersede manual labour, 3636——Grass land has paid better than arable, 3640, 3641.

Bran. Reason why agriculturists will not be injured by the bran coming into consumption under the proposed arrangement for liberating bonded corn; extent to which it would affect the miller, *Frean* 15276–15281——Price of bran, and by what regulated, *Hayes* 17316–17322.

Branch Banks. How far the branch banks are compellable to pay in gold, *Brown* 12264–12270.

Brassington, Richard. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Surveyor and land valuer, farming 120 Irish or 184 English acres, 14589–14591——Agriculture in Ireland has improved since 1800; 14592–14596——Wheat has paid badly from want of demand, 14597——Great deal less wheat sown last year, 14598——Rents fell from the close of the war to 1819; they are now stationary, 14599, 14600——Tenantry are depressed now from the want of demand for wheat; they have been obliged to sell at low prices to merchants and millers, 14601, 14602——Number of middlemen diminished within 40 or 50 years, since the 40*s.* freeholders commenced, 14603——Average produce, in bushels, of wheat per statute acre, 14605–14607——Rent per acre of the best land in Ireland in Tipperary and Limerick, 14608——Remunerating price for wheat, 14611——Con acres as much followed as ever, but the land is more burnt, 14614——Leases would be beneficial where tenants possess capital, otherwise they are only binding on the landlord, 14617.

Brassington, Richard. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

Joint stock banks afford a facility for capital to the agricultural interest, but they can only be taken advantage of to a limited extent, 14619–14623——Middlemen being done away with will be advantageous to the poorer classes, where the landlords let at a moderate rent, 14624——Difference that would be made in the rent of land between a cottier and a farmer if the landlord let the land, 14625–14627——Rent of con acres and number of crops taken in succession, 14628–14633——Difference in the rent between a cottier and a farmer, if a middleman let the land, 14634, 14635——Rent of land in Ireland as compared with land of the same quality in England, 14636–14639——Comparison between tillage and pasture land in Ireland, as to which is most on the increase, 14644–14649——Estimated expenditure for labour on a well regulated farm of 100 acres, 14651——Rate of wages in Meath, Dublin and Leinster, 14652–14655——Mode of letting in Cork by the system of rundale; course of crops and ruinous nature of the system 14656–14663.

The province of Leinster is the best cultivated district in Ireland 14668——Capital necessary for a farm of 100 acres, 14979–14682——Extent of pains taken by farmers in clearing and weeding their land, 14692–14706——Demand of the English market governs the export of corn from Ireland; if tillage is encouraged it will increase, and the labourer have employment, 14709–14712——Increase of the con acre system; manner in which it causes a larger rent to be paid to the landlord; evils of the system particularly as regards burning the land, 14715–14722——Farmers and labourers were both better off during the war, 14723–14725——Taking the whole of Ireland there may be as much land in tillage now as during the war, 14727–14729——Landlords have not exacted exorbitant rents, they have been lenient to their tenants, 14731–14733——Facility afforded to farmers by means of the Agricultural Loan Bank, 14734–14739.

Advantages of the Provincial Bank of Ireland, how far it has lowered the rate of interest, 14742–14749——Farmers not so rich as they were fifteen years ago; there has not been much change in the last six or ten years, they have not been able to keep their expensive mode of living acquired during the war, 24750–14753——Landlords also lived expensively; charges on property made on the war rents have not diminished though the rents have, which now press on the landlords, 14754–14756——How far joint stock banks are on a more sure foundation than the former private banks were, 14757–14759——Accommodation to farmers which prevents their prematurely forcing their crops on the market is a benefit, 14760——Corn laws, by keeping up the price of produce to a reasonable extent, benefit Ireland 14761——Number of cattle necessary on a farm of 100 acres; price of cattle and improvement in the breed, 14763–14769.

Growth of flax increased and could be further increased if there were an increased demand, 14770, 14771——Impracticable to raise an artificial surface on flow bogs; the bogs being above the level of the adjacent rivers should be tapped, 14772–14774——Extent of emigration from Ireland to England, 14775, 14778, 14779——If capital introduced to reclaim waste lands, there is employment in Ireland for every soul for years to come, 14776——But the land already in cultivation should be first improved, 14777——Export of flour from Ireland caused by the increase in flour mills, 14781–14783——Capital required for stocking land with cattle depends on the skill of the man stocking, 14784——Bills drawn by graziers buying cattle at fairs on their sale-masters create a fictitious capital, 14785, 14786.

Bread. The price of bread does not influence a man's income as much as many suppose, *Cortis* 1837——Labourers consume less bread, but their food generally improved, *Morton* 3927–3930——Consumption of wheaten bread has not decreased, *Ellis* 10727–10729——Price of bread is too high for the price of corn, *Scott* 5232–5235; *Muntz* 16632——Bread, being of a better quality, is, relatively to the price of corn, higher now than within the last fifty years, *Hayes* 17499–17501——Wheat bread has superseded the use of oaten bread in the West Riding of Yorkshire, *Howard* 5460——Very excellent household bread in Woburn at a penny per pound till since the price of wheat has risen, *Bennett* 8199.

See also *Barley Bread. Potatoes* 1. *Price of Corn.* 2. 9.

Brewers. See *Irish Malt. Malt Duty* 6.

Brewing private. See *Malt Duty* 1, 3, 6.

Bricks. See *Clay Lands* 5.

Brickwell, John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Farming 700 acres of land at Leckhampstead Bucks, 305–311——Loss from reduction in the price of wheat since 1833, 312, 313——Expense of cultivating an acre of stiff clay land and loss thereon from the present price of wheat, 313–316——Smaller portion of wheat sown on cold clay lands in consequence of loss, 316,* 317——Distress of farmers from low prices, 319——Reduction of rent on an estate near Chipping Norton in Oxfordshire of 15 per cent from 1813–1822, and 25 per cent since 1822, 320–322——Depression supposed to be from imports from Ireland, 323——Farm of wet clay land at Thornborough, Bucks, thrown out of cultivation from low prices, 327–331——Poors' rates have been reduced in Buckinghamshire since the Poor Law Bill, 332——Produce grown on lands subject to poors' rates and tithes cannot compete with the produce of Ireland, which is subject to neither, 337, 338——Bettering the

651

Brickwell, John. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

the condition of the Irish poor and giving them poors' rates, suggested as a means of relief, 339.

Also allowing farmers to malt free of duty, 340–342, 345–347——Difficulty of lightening county rates in Buckingham, 343, 344——Removal of assessed taxes would give but little relief, 346——Labourer's condition better off now with low wages as regards the price of wheat, but not as regards those articles of consumption which have kept up their price, 350, 351——Labourers are more attentive since the Poor Law Bill, and rates are diminishing, 352–354——Great part of capital exhausted in paying rents, causing bad cultivation, 355——Extent of assistance for draining, &c., granted by landlords, 356, 357——Cultivation has fallen off in the neighbourhood of Leckhamstead within the last eight or ten years, 358, 359——Price of meat in Buckingham market at Christmas 1835 and February 1836, 361–365——Not many sales of land; poor soils would sell at about twenty-five years' purchase, 367–372——Ruinous state of the buildings on the farm at Thornborough; comparison between that land and others in the parish, 375–387.

By grazing witness is enabled to pay a fair rent; impossible to reduce the expenses of cultivation, 390-396——Statement of the expenses of cultivating an acre of strong clay land in the vale of Bucks, on the four-course system; estimated value of produce according to present prices, rent 24*s.*, tithe 6*s.*, per acre, 402——Process of cultivation, 402–407——Prices of agricultural produce, 408–415——Low price of wheat partly attributed to surplus growth, deficiency of consumption and increased growth of potatoes, 416——Only poor lands in Bucks that are not worth more than twenty-five years' purchase, 420–425——In some farms a man cannot pay his way if he had not rent, 429–432——Farm at Newton Longville, on a soil not strong enough to grow beans, let at 10*s.* an acre, and tenant in arrear, 432–436——Necessity for a mixture of grass land with arable to pay the expense of cultivation without rent, on land producing thirty bushels of wheat per acre, and not then if other prices brought down to the level of wheat, 437–450——Price of sheep stock has kept up within the last four years in consequence of the previous rot, 451–458.

Effect of the Poor Law Bill in the Buckingham Union in causing labourers to leave the parish and thus reduce the poors' rates, 459–465——Condition of labourers better during the low wages paid from 1788–1792, taxation not being so high, 466–472——Task-work not more reduced than regular wages, 473–474——Dry seasons best for the clay lands of Buckinghamshire, 475——Crops of the three last seasons taken together may have been above an average, 476, 477——Soils that dry springs suit best, 479–482——Irish labourers are rather an advantage during hay time and harvest, 487–491——Irish pigs are more plentiful within the last six or seven years, 492–497——Taking off the beer duty is not of that advantage that taking off the malt duty would have been, 501, 502——Saving per acre that taking off the county rate would be, 503–505——Better for landlords to lay out money in draining than reduce rent, 506, 507——Further evidence upon the number of years' purchase on good and bad land, 508–514.

Extent of reduction of rent in Buckinghamshire, 515——Calculation of rent according to the price of wheat, 516–522——There has been a greater change of tenantry since 1820, than previously, 523–531——About 1827 certain farms were impoverished by more wheat being grown on them than ought to have been, 535–539——Near Leckhamstead there is not so much wheat grown per acre as 20 years ago, 540——If wheat has got to its lowest price it would be good time to purchase land, 542, 543——Low price of stock before Christmas and increase since, 544–548——Assistance to labourers with a family, formerly according to a diet scale, 549, 550——Fires in Buckinghamshire have not operated to increase wages, 551, 552——Description of land that would be used for barley if it were more in demand, 553–556——Further evidence in favour of allowing farmers to malt, 557–560.

The low price of wheat has caused farmers to feed their cattle with it, which course having increased consumption is now causing a rise in price, 560, 563–565——There are not too many labourers if prices were remunerating, 566, 567——Price of wheat that would be remunerating, 568–571——Reason why the abolition of the malt duty would increase the consumption of barley, although the removal of the beer duty has not, 572–579——Price of oats and whether the importations from Ireland has affected them, 585–590——If the price of wheat rose in proportion to the price of other corn, the farmers' condition would not be satisfactory, 593——Not possible to reduce farming expenses, 594, 495——Proportion the price of barley is to that of wheat; amount of malt duty, 597–599——Comparative cost of cultivation of witness's farm formerly and at present, 600–604——To what extent taking off the beer duty has increased the consumption of barley, 606–608.

How far deficient crops of barley in 1833 and 1834 the cause of a rise in price, 609–613——Advantage of poor laws in Ireland, which would raise wages there and cause increased consumption of produce there, 618–629——Reduction in the price of Irish linens, though of rather inferior quality, 632–635——Effect of the introduction of poor laws into Ireland on wages and rents, 637–642——Improving the cultivation of Ireland and increasing the produce might affect the English markets more than at present, 645–649——Condition of labourers previous to the war was better than now; though wages re lower, taxation not being so great, 650–656——Rent quite as low now as it was forty years

Brickwell, John. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

ago, 657–659——Opinion in favour of present corn laws, 662–664——Comparative condition of the labourer with high wages and high price of wheat, and a contrary state of things, 665, 666——Lace-making formerly carried on in Bucks by the females, but which did not affect the wages of males, 667–670.

Bridges, County. Should be supported by a toll to be paid by those who use them, *Brickwell* 344.

See also *County Buildings.*

Bridgewater, Countess of. See *Clay Lands,* 4.

Brodie, John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Farming 950 imperial acres at Amisfield Mains, Haddington, 10235, 10236——Nature of soil, 10237–10240——Advantages of furrow-draining; particulars as to the mode adopted; expense per acre, and extent of allowance from landlord, 10241–10267——Rotation of crops, 10271–10286——Acreable produce of the different crops, 10287-10291——Expense of cultivation, 10293——Amount of poors' rate divided between landlord and tenant, 10295–10298——Amount of statute duty, 10299——Amount of turnpike tolls, which are a great tax, though the roads have been considerably improved since their establishment, 10301–10309——Abatements made in money rent since 1820, 10311–10313——Calculation showing the difference in witness's favour there would have been on the farm at Amisfield Mains if it had been rented under a corn rent instead of a money rent from 1822–1835, 10314–10318.

Price at which wheat calculated for taking a farm at a corn rent or money rent, 10319–10328——Great advantage of the improvement of furrow draining, 10329–10335——Low price of wheat has been occasioned by the great crops which have been assisted by the five seasons, 10336–10338——In some instances one-tenth less wheat sown last autumn, 10339–10341——Present price of wheat in Haddington Market, 10342-10344——Tenantry have been doing well where they have had corn rents, with a maximum and without a minimum, 10345, 10346——It would be safer if corn returns were taken from growers instead of purchasers, 10349——Mode of striking the fiars, and whether done fairly, 10349–10359——Clay lands in the north of England are very much neglected, and can pay very little rent, 10363–10366.

Labourers are all employed and are comfortably off in witness's neighbourhood, 10367, 10371–10375——Wages generally paid in money, as it gives the advantage of piece-work; some are paid in kind, 13376–10381——Price of corn at which the minimum fixed for corn rents, 10382, 10383——With abundant crops wheat could be cultivated and rent paid at 6*s.* a bushel, 10384–10390——Expense of cultivation, 10391, 10392——Capital required for the management of a farm, 10393, 10394——Quantity of cattle used as stock, 10395——Abolition of the duty on clover-seed would be an advantage to the Scotch farmer, but not to the English grower; English seed is preferred, 10396–10401——Arrangements with regard to crops between the outgoing and incoming tenant, 10402–10407——Rents are higher now in East Lothian than previous to the war, from better cultivation, 10409–10413——Flax deteriorates the land and leaves nothing to improve it, 10414–10415.

Further advantages of improving clay lands by draining, 10416–10419——Forty shillings as low as wheat could be cultivated on clay lands even if drained, 10420–10433——Period of first letting lands by corn rents in East Lothian, 10434–10436——Opinion that low prices are caused by the supply being greater than the demand, 10441–10453——Advantages of one pound notes to Scotland, 10454–10466——When a farmer has good credit he has plenty of accommodation from bankers, 10467–10469——Supposed effect in Scotland, if the abolition of one pound notes had been extended to it, 10470–10475——Advantage of lime as a manure, and cost per acre, 10476–10496——Extent to which bones are used in East Lothian, 10499, 10500——Sea-weed is used on the coast side with advantage, 10501, 10502.

Brown, William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Farming 400 imperial acres at Greenock Mains in Ayrshire, 12086-12088——Produce of oats per acre on heavy clay soils before they are improved, 12092–12097——Tenants willing to pay their landlords five per cent. for the expenses they are at in draining, 12098–12102——Rents mostly paid in money but, in some instances, according to the fiars prices of corn and other produce, 12103, 12104——Particulars as to the mode of furrow-draining, and expense per acre, 12106–12128——Process of subsoil ploughing and advantages expected to be derived from it, 12129, 12136, 12146–12150——Price of tiles, and number required for draining, 12137–12145——Farmers in a good state; there are no arrears of rent, 12153–12156——Particulars as to the system of cropping upon a six or a nine years' course, 12157–12161——Small farmers with little capital on heavy soils have not been improving their condition, 12162-12164——Light soils have been improved by means of the sea-weed manure, 12165, 12166——Preference given to a corn rent; sometimes rents paid partly in money and partly in produce rents, 12168–12176.

Money rents were reduced immediately after the war, 12177–12180, 18188–18191——There is now a great demand for farms at rising rents, 12181–12187——Amount of local burthens which are paid between the landlord and tenant, 12197–12200——Price of

653

Brown, William. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

Dunlop cheese is not much below the average price of the last nineteen years, 12201–12205——Instances of farmers who have farmed all their lives now purchasing farms for 5,000 *l.* and 6,000 *l.*, 12206, 12207——Particulars as to draining and otherwise improving a flow moss by Mr. Buchanan of Catrine Bank; expense per acre, and nature of the crops obtained since, 12208–12222——The legislature cannot benefit the farmers of Ayr; whatever difficulties exist can best be remedied by the landlords, 12223——Suggestions by farmers for the removal of certain grievances affecting them, 12224–12228——Improvement in the breed of Ayrshire dairy cows, 12229–12231.

Interruption to the trade of breeding sheep in Ayrshire attributed to the scarcity of the turnip crop in England, 12234, 12235, 12238——Rate of interest charged by bankers to landlords and farmers on bills and on landed security, 12241–12243——Cattle sent from Ayrshire are mostly in a lean state, and are driven over land to Carlisle market, 12236, 12244, 12245——Condition of labourers better than ever, 12246——There is a demand for labourers of all descriptions, 12247, 12248——Rate of wages which are generally paid in money, 12249–12251——Farmers in Ayrshire could not get their work done without the assistance of Irish labourers, 12254, 12255——Manner in which county roads are kept in repair, 12256–12259——Money wages have been much the same for many years, though the demand for labour last year has caused them to rise, 12260–12263——Opinion that the banking system of Scotland first gave the stimulus to Agriculture in Ayrshire; how far the branch banks are compellable to pay in gold, 12264–12270.

Advantage of one-pound notes to Scotland, particularly in facilitating the accommodation by bankers to farmers, 12271–12277——Whether farmers in Ayrshire have made as much money during the last nineteen years as they did in any previous nineteen years, 12278–12296——Effect of demand and supply in causing a rise or fall in prices in different years since 1817, 12297–12310——Effect of the Bank Restriction Act in 1779, and Mr. Peel's Bill in 1819 in causing a rise and fall in prices at those periods, 12311–12318——Seldom the Scotch banks are required to pay in gold, 12319–12321——Ayrshire farmers would not have been so well off if they had had to depend solely on corn, 12323——Rot in England was an advantage to them in causing a rise in price, 12324–12326, 12333——Price of wool in different years, 1828–1835, and how far any rise was occasioned by the rot in England, 12327–12336.

Failure of the turnip crop in England will tend to increase the price of wool, 12337–12339——Forty shillings will not pay for wheat alone; Ayrshire farmers depend for remuneration upon all their crops taken together, 12340–12343——Growth of wheat has been increasing in Ayrshire during the last twenty years, but low prices have caused it to decrease in the last year, 12343–12347——Farmers would have no difficulty in obtaining accommodation from bankers to complete purchases of farms at three and a half per cent., 12355, 12356——Course of husbandry under a six, nine and twelve years' course, 12357, 12358——Acreable produce of wheat in Ayrshire, 12359–12361——Clay lands cropped every third year with wheat will become impoverished, 12361, 12362——Bankers will accommodate farmers on good security to enable them to purchase stock, but there is less money lent on accommodation bills than formerly, 12363–12368——Cultivation is increasing, and there is a disposition to cultivate waste lands, 12369–12373——Bad state of harvests and deficient crops in 1816 and 1817 in Scotland, 12374–12379.

Buckingham Union. Contract prices of pork and mutton for the union at Christmas 1835, *Brickwell* 363——Letter from the clerk to the guardians of, showing the reduction in parochial expenditure 1835 over 1834 in consequence of the new law, *Ev.* 3989, *I.*, *p.* 187.

Buildings. There are new buildings erecting in Cambridge; there may be some at Saffron Walden, *Thurnall* 2407.

Bullion. Imports of corn 1817–1819 did not affect the stock of bullion during the first year of import; effect of import in 1829, on bullion in 1829, *Sanders* 6848–6851——Quantity of bullion in the Bank of England in 1819 and 1821, *Calthrop* 7937——In 1824, *Hoggard* 16279–16283——In 1824 and 1825, *Lord Ashburton* 17557–17565——Quantity of bullion exported to the continent in 1825, and quantity in the Bank at the time of the panic, *Langhorne* 8924——The great export of bullion from the Bank in 1825, caused by the state of foreign exchanges arising from the over-export of manufactured goods, eventually caused the panic, *Langhorne* 8939, 8940, 8942.

Bullion Committee of 1810. Table in the Appendix thereto, which shows that there never was an average price of wheat upon a fair average of years beyond 46*s.* or 47*s.* a quarter prior to the Bank Restriction Bill in 1797, *Houghton* 1273–1275.

Bullocks. A certain quantity kept by witness on his farm for the purpose of obtaining manure, *Thurnall* 2470.

Burning Land. See *Con-acre System.*

Burges, Henry. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Secretary to the committee of country bankers, 15919——Committee instituted in 1827 to protect country bankers against encroachments by the Bank of England and joint stock banks; $\frac{49}{50}$ths of the country bankers have joined it, 15920–15925——The bankers are not concerned in the publication of the weekly circular of information published by witness, 15926–15929——Of what the circulating medium of the country consists, 15930——Small bills of exchange formerly used in Lancashire have, since the higher rate of stamp duties were imposed, very much diminished, 15931–15934——Bills of exchange formed a most essential portion of the circulating medium up to 1825, since when their circulation has diminished, 15935——Practice by bankers of issuing twenty-one day bills is greatly on the increase, 15936——Manner in which the contraction of the issues of the Bank of England affects the circulation of bills of exchange, and thereby affects prices and commercial credit, 15937–15943——Currency is very much more contracted, and floating credit in a greater proportion, than during the Bank Restriction Act, 15944, 15945——During that period approved industry and integrity formed the basis of advances even without adequate security, 15946——Similar accommodation is yet extensively given in the manufacturing districts, but not in the agricultural, though the latter interest grew to the state it did during the war by means of that accommodation, 15947–15953——The amount of currency, taking all descriptions into account, is much less now than in 1815, 15954–15957.

Depression of the agricultural interest at present, which might have been as great during a portion of the American war, 15958–15964——Causes to which general prosperity during the late war to be attributed, 15965–15970——Causes of the depression of the productive classes during the last twenty years, 15971——Manner in which distress was caused by the operation of Mr. Peel's Bill of 1819, 15972–15981——That Bill was a very inconsiderate measure, and the evidence taken upon it was diametrically opposite to the interests of the productive classes, 15983–15986——Reason the manufacturing interest suffered first, and most extensively, from the effects of that measure, 15987–15995——Why the prosperity occasioned by Lord Londonderry's measure of 1822 for extending the circulation was not permanent, 15996–15998——Causes of the panic of 1825, 15999–16001.

Manner in which prices, ranging above the standard of value, causes the export of gold, 16002–16006——Advantages of a silver standard, or a joint standard of gold and silver, 16007–16009——The present state of things not likely to be permanent, the present range of prices likely to drive the gold out of the country, 16010, 16011——Circulating medium in most of the Continental States has greatly increased, which has caused a great extension and improvement of productive industry, 16014–16022——Quantity of money coined in France since the war; the productive industry in a state of prosperity, 16023–16027——Extent of circulating medium in America, and course pursued by them with regard to their national debt, 16028–16033——Until very lately in Scotland, persons persisting in demands for gold at the banks would have been held in moral indignation, 16034–16038——Paper circulation exists in Sweden, issued under the regulations of commissioners; great prosperity in that country, 16039–16044——State of cultivation in Russia, and prosperity of that country, 16045–16051.

The Prussian Government has given great facilities for the obtaining capital of the Agricultural classes by means of a public company, which enables them to hold stock over depressed markets, 16052–16055——Interest taken by the King of Holland in extending production and facilitating commerce, 16056, 16057——Regulation of the paper currency of Austria after the war, 16058–16063——There may be an interest rising up in France and America similar to that in this country, of a monied interest in co-operation with Government acting as an incubus upon the productive interests of the country, 16064, 16065——Bank of France exercises a material influence with the Government, 16066——The Government and the Bank of England are almost identified in interest, 16067, 16068——Difference with regard to prices as affecting the agricultural and manufacturing interests in favour of the latter, and advantages to it of the foreign trade, 16069–16076——Farmers cannot get that accommodation from bankers that they could formerly, or that manufacturers can now, from not having the same description of negociable security to offer, 16077–16080.

Want of capital of farmers, particularly on clay soils, 16081–16083——Distress of grazing farmers, 16084, 16085——Advantages the Scotch system of banking gives the Scotch over the English farmer in obtaining accommodation, 16086–18090——Extent of distress of Scotch farmers, and causes to which their improved condition in the last two years to be attributed, 16090–16098——Produce of the Scotch farmer consists in a much greater degree of wool than that of the English farmer, 16099–16101——Taking the whole county of Cheshire, the estates are mortgaged to one-third of their value, 16103–16106——Advantage of the Scotch one-pound notes to the farmers; the same advantage would occur to the English farmers if the English bankers could obtain the same exemption from paying their notes in gold, 16107, 16108——Country bankers averse to the issue of one-pound notes; there would be an advantage in their issue if based on a silver standard; security should be given more particularly for the protection of the labouring clsases, 16199-16125.

Proportions in the value between gold and silver must be re-adjusted in the event of silver standard, to prevent the displacement of gold, 16126–16129——Extent of the depreciation

655

Burges, Henry. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

depreciation of the gold standard in America, which state did not increase the circulation of metallic currency till it had paid off its national debt, 16130–16135——Fluctuations in both might take place if two standards existed, but speculations in one metal would not produce so much derangement as speculation at present, 16136, 16137——Further evidence upon the advantages of a conjoint standard, and upon the fluctuations in value of either metal, 16140–16154——Further evidence upon the evils of the Acts of 1816 and 1819 in permanently depressing prices, 16155–16163——Proposed standard value for the issue of silver, and effect on the issue of paper, and on prices, 16164–16172.

Effect of depreciating the gold standard six per cent. on prices, rents, mortgaged estates, and wages, 16173–16188——The present unnatural height of wages attributable to the fires and insubordination of labourers, which state of things cannot remain, 16189–16195——Manufacturing prosperity has also increased wages, 16194——An addition of six per cent. to prices would not enhance wages, 16196–16198——Bankers willingly gave up the profit attached to one-pound notes, to be placed in a state of security against runs, 16199–16202——Security that would be afforded to bankers by a silver standard, 16203–16206——Reduction of prices partly caused by the withdrawal of government bills drawn by foreign countries during the war, and withdrawn after the peace, 16207–16214.

Butter. Low price of at some periods within the last ten years, *Brickwell* 447——Increased duty that should be placed on the importation of foreign butter, *Blacker* 15503–15505.

Byron, Samuel. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Farmer of one thousand acres of clay land at North Kellingholme, Lincoln, 8381–8384——Small farmers rely almost entirely on the wheat crop, 8387——Their condition rather improved since 1833, 8388——Harvests in the last three years have been above an average, 8389, 8390——Increased crop not sufficient to pay the decreased value of corn, 8391——Beans have been an average crop, and sold at a remunerating price, 8394, 8395——From 55*s.* to 65*s.* remunerating price for wheat, 8396–8439——Low price of wheat attributed to an abundantly great harvest, and to the conversion of grazing land into tillage in the last ten years, 8400–8404——Fresh ploughed rich marsh land down by Louth would pay a profit at present prices, yielding a crop of either oats or wheat every year, 8405, 8406.

Clay lands yield a crop only once in two years; they have not been occupied to advantage the last two years: course of husbandry, 8407–8409——Alteration of averages would relieve; the farmer should return in the first instance, and the merchant who buys of that farmer, 8410–8143——Increased quantity of wheat from two extraordinary seasons has made farmers better off than in 1833, 8417–8422——Low prices in 1822 occasioned by general depression throughout the country, 8427–8430——Breaking up grazing land has been going on for the last twenty years, 8431–8435——Average produce 24 bushels an acre, which at five shillings a bushel will not pay, 8436–8438——At that price the loss would be one pound an acre in five years, 8440——Distress among small farmers, partly from the rot, 8441–8443.

C.

Calthrop, George. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—General merchant, particularly in corn, at Spalding in Lincolnshire, 7778, 7779——The description of land in the neighbourhood of Spalding is so good that it will never go out of cultivation; acreable produce thereon, 7782–7785——Harvests of 1833 and 1834 are above an average; that of the last year supposed to be under, 7786, 7787——Deliveries of wheat at market immediately after harvest is not always an index to the state of farmers, 7788——Condition of farmers depending entirely on the plough is 30 per cent. worse than in 1818, 7790–7794——Failures among farmers; they have been greater since 1833 than in 1822, 7795–7798——Deficiency of oats and beans in the harvests of 1833–1835 have caused them to bear a relatively higher price than wheat, 7799–7803.

A large proportion of wheat in the last year has been used for feeding cattle, 7804–7805—Fen districts used for grazing thirty-five years ago began to be ploughed, from high prices of 1800 and 1801 and during the war, which custom has continued, 7806, 7807——Remuneration formerly obtained by the growth of flax and hemp, the reduction of duty discouraged its growth and turned the land to wheat; produce per acre and means by which it may be prevented from exhausting the land, 7808–7828——Corn is shipped from Spalding to Yorkshire, London, Newcastle and Scotland, but Yorkshire preponderates, 7829–7833——At Wakefield and Leeds, and in Yorkshire generally, the stocks have accumulated, 7836——Speculation in corn has been less than usual within the last three years, but there is now a tendency to speculate, 7837–7840.

Joint stock banks have had a very useful effect in the agricultural districts; they grant a business-like accommodation, and have made private banks more open to the wants of their customers, 7841–7846——Import of foreign corn in 1831 meeting the good harvests 1833–1835, is felt at the present moment, 7847–7849——Barley imported from Hamburgh and Nantes is of good malting quality, worth within a shilling or two of our best malting barleys; it can be imported from Hamburgh at the present time under 1 *l.* per quarter, freight included, 7850–7855——If the price was remunerating, barley could be grown in this country in sufficient quantities to meet the demand, 7856–7858——Operation of the present corn laws beneficial, 7859. 7860——Fixed duty of 8 *s.* objectionable; it would not exclude the foreign corn grown

Calthrop, George. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

in cheap countries, and in times of scarcity must be taken off altogether, 7861–7863——Under a fixed duty, countries not now exporting would grow it expressly for England to any amount, 7864–7867——Import of wheat from Barbary in 1829 of good quality but at a high price, 7868, 7869——Import from Spain in 1829; the crops there are very uncertain, 7870–7872——Price at which wheat could be imported from the Baltic ports; price paid in 1818, 7873–7878——Price to which wheat would fall in this country under a fixed duty, 7879——Price that would be remunerating, 7880–7882.

Average produce of England per acre is under 24 bushels; 50*s.* a quarter would not keep those lands in cultivation, 7881, 7882——Clay lands do not reach above 18 to 20 bushels, which at present prices cannot be cultivated, and would probably become sheep-walks, 7883–7889——Under the present corn laws, in nine seasons out of ten, the produce is sufficient, 7890——If clay lands thrown out of cultivation there must be an import every year, which would substitute foreign for home labour, 7891, 7892——Labourers in good condition; many small farmers on ploughed lands would be glad to change conditions with them, 7893–7895——Rents by large occupiers are pretty well paid, on mixed lands out of profits, on ploughed land out of capital; average rental; 15 per cent. decrease since 1818, which is not so much as prices would warrant, 7896–7900——Rents were not sufficiently high during the war, 7901.

Purchasers of small freeholds leaving part of the purchase-money on mortgage are worse off than others, 7902, 7903——The main causes of agricultural distress are reduction of prices, burthen of taxation and prices of labour, 7904——All taxes, direct and indirect, bear on the agricultural interest, 7905–7908——If the trade in malt thrown open that of barley would be, which would be a corresponding evil, 7909–7915——Reduction of the tax would be a benefit, if not made a handle for reducing duty on foreign barley, 7916——Prohibitory duty on mustard-seed causes its growth in this country; description of land which suits it; produce per acre; low price at present from abundant crops; price that has been paid for it, 7917–7927——Importations of corn in 1817 and 1818 were needed, but not those of 1819 and 1820, 7931, 7932——Reduction of prices partly caused by the return to the gold standard, which caused contraction of Bank issues; fall in the price of corn has kept pace with the contraction, 7933–7941.

Opinion in favour of a silver standard under restrictions; the Bank would not have so much occasion to vary its issues; it would stop a rapid demand for bullion; taking silver at the mint price would bean in justice to the country; the object is a sounder system of banking, and not an intention of raising prices, 7942–7948——Resumption of cash payments is the main cause, but not the only one, of the low price of wheat, 7949, 7950—Manner in which bonded corn acts as a dead weight upon the market and prevents speculation in English corn, 7953–7957——Large occupiers are more prosperous than small ones; tenants, generally speaking, are in a solvent state, 7958–7961——Tradesmen complaining their bills are left unpaid in order to pay rents, 7962–7964——Clay lands run out will grow natural grasses without much outlay, but will never become a decent pasture, 7965–7968——Fair clay lands could be kept in cultivation with wheat at an average of 60*s.* a quarter, 7969——Stock of corn in farmers' hands has been diminishing since 1822, 7970–7976.

There is a fair quantity in the hands of merchants; there has been a gradual accumulation in Yorkshire, 7977——This year there will not be a supply equal to last year in the United Kingdom, 7979–7983——Whether there is likely to be speculation from the appearance of the present crop, 7984, 7986——Rise in price from the prospect of a bad harvest will not benefit those farmers who have sold their corn, 7987——Improvements of the wolds and fens in Lincolnshire and Yorkshire which have caused the growth of wheat thereon have been going on for the last twenty-five years, occasioned by the war prices, 7988–7990——Great advantages to agriculture from the drainages of the Deeping Fen and the Neve Outfall, 7990–7998——Increase of wheat on the wolds has not occasioned the present low prices, 7999–8000——The immense tracts of land brought into wheat cultivation in the fens of Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk, have had a great effect on the price of wheat, 8005——Production during the last three years having exceeded consumption is one cause of low prices, 8006, 8007.

Comparison between the war prices and the present prices of flax and hemp; many farmers about re-commencing that culture even at the present low duty, 8011–8018——Fixed duty of 8*s.* would reduce prices at first, but eventually raise them and cause an increased growth of corn abroad, 8019–8022——The imports which took place three years in succession did not increase foreign growth, there not being any prospect of the English market continuing, 8023, 8024——Fine quality of the barley grown at Nantes, 8025–8027——A silver standard would have prevented the panic, 8031–8033——It would now greatly advantage the agriculturist, and not be any serious detriment to the other interests of the kingdom, 8034, 8035——Thirty per cent. reduction of farming capital since 1818, 8036, 8037.

Farmers with capital on mixed grazing and ploughed farms have not been suffering, 8038——There has not been a sufficient adjustment of rents taken place between the war and present prices, 8039, 8040——Value of grass land ploughed up is diminished in the market 10*l.* to 15*l.* an acre; during the war the tenant would pay a bonus for permission to plough up grass land, 8041–8047——Employment of labourers greater in the cultivation of hemp and flax than other produce; duty that would be sufficient protection, 8049–8057——Sliding scale more advantageous than a fixed duty; production

Calthrop, George. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

under a proper protection would equal consumption, shown by improvements in agriculture and the cultivation of bog, fen and waste lands, 8058–8062——Speculations entered into on fair mercantile grounds are advantageous, and tend to prevent an alteration of high and low prices, 8063–8066——There would be a difficulty in having a conjoint standard of silver and gold, 8067, 8068——Gold would always bear a higher relative value than silver, and it would be advantageous to compel a receipt in silver, but with a power of paying in gold, 8069-8076——Difficulty in fixing the price of silver if made the standard, 8079-8082——Silver standard would give greater confidence to banking transactions, 8083, 8084——Joint stock banks have lessened the difficulty of obtaining accommodation from bankers, 8085–8087——Improvements in agriculture have lessened the cost of production, and reduced the price at which farmers immediately after the war thought they must have to grow corn profitably, 8088–8091——Duty on flax would be advantageous to the fen lands of Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Yorkshire, 8092——It might at first injure the manufacturer, but not eventually, 8098–8100.

It could be profitably grown in Ireland with no duty at all, 8094–8097——Opinion against a reduction of duty on clover-seed, 8101–8108——Fifty-six shillings would be a fair remunerating price for wheat; 50*s.* would be remunerating on the rich lands of Lincolnshire, but not as an average of all England, 8109–8114——Progressive increase in growth of wheat in the Spalding district, particularly from the drainage, 8115–8125——Low prices will not decrease the use of labour, as the lands will probably get into the hands of large capitalists, 8128, 8129——If wheat lands were used for other crops it would benefit the farmer and cause a greater employment of labour, 8130–8136——Increased production of wheat has been sufficient to meet the increased population since 1821, 8137–8141——Extent of rise in price of wheat, which has not been solely caused by opinions in favour of a rise, but partly from there being less corn on hand than is expected, and from an enormous consumption, 8145–8157.

Declarations of agricultural distress from high quarters in authority have not discouraged the outlay of capital or diminished the competition for land, or reduced rents or prices, 8158——No beneficial alteration could take place in the averages; they are pretty nearly facts, 8160——If farmers returned the amount of sales and the merchant of purchases, there might be collision between the two, 8161–8162——Magistrates should fix the average according to the returns received in the same way they fix the assize of bread, 8162–8166——Manner in which fictitious sales have taken place and open the ports for rye, 8163–8166——Advantage of a parochial return of the acreable quantity of wheat, barley and oats sown annually; it would produce greater steadiness of price and greater certainty of supply, 8167–8173——Manner in which the machinery of the poor law might be used for the purpose, 8174, 8175——Fifty-five or fifty-six shillings the lowest price at which wheat can be advantageously grown; knowledge of the fact, that there never was a greater range of price for any period of years previous to 1797, will have a great effect on the value of land, 8176–8179.

Cambridge. See *Agricultural Society of Cambridge.*

Canada. Importation of corn from Canada very much diminished, *Scott* 5223–5231——The only imports of wheat of late years have been from Canada, and which have been but trifling, *Hodgson* 6335——Foreign corn may be ground in Canada, and sent here as their own produce at a reduced duty, *Frean* 15357–15359.

See also *American Flour.*

Canals. Effect on farmers in Huntingdonshire, owing to hay brought to London markets by canals, *Morton* 3734–3736, 3746.

Candles. See *Tallow.*

Canning, Mr. See *Foreign Corn.*

CAPITAL:

1. *Amount of Capital required for farming, and interest that should be received thereon.*
2. *Possession of Capital by Farmers.*
3. *Diminution of Capital, and nature of outgoings paid out of it.*
4. *Capital laid out in the improvement of land, and return in consequence.*
5. *Employment of Capital in Ireland in improving tillage lands, or in reclaiming bog lands.*

1. *Amount of Capital required for farming, and interest that should be received thereon.*

Of what farming capital consists, *Jacob* 273–276——Amount required for the management of a farm, *Brodie* 10393, 10394——Amount of capital required and per centage that should be obtained thereon, *Bell* 11866-11868——Capital necessary for a farm of 100 acres, *Brassington,* 14679-14682——Farming capital bears an infinitely worse return now than in 1823, *Thurnall* 2620——Interest on capital has scarcely been paid in the neighbourhood of Bedfont, *Sherborn* 4038——How far there was an increase, on a capital of 3,000 *l.,* between 1801 and 1814; on the same capital, with a money rent, between 1820 and 1834; the parties can hardly be solvent, *Hope* 9783–9788.

CAPITAL :—continued.

2. *Possession of Capital by Farmers* :

Tenants offering to take farms in Cambridgeshire are not, generally speaking, possessed of much capital, *Thurnall* 2449——People of capital do not like to embark in the cultivation of land, *Smallpiece* 2958–2960——Outgoing tenants of farms in good condition leave their capital on the farms, *Thurnall* 2425–2430, 2446–2457——In many instances farming is not carried on by men of capital, *Bowyer* 3459——Presumed intention of those farmers who take land, not having sufficient capital to cultivate it, *Cooper* 5756–5759——Farmers who have withdrawn their capital from farming, have in some instances lost it in speculations with which they were not acquainted, *Rolfe* 1662–1671——Farmers of Haddington are not possessed of so much capital as they were in 1820, *Brodie* 10437–10439——That of farmers is not diminished in Berwickshire in the last sixteen years, but may be something improved, *Bell* 11951–11959——Farmers possessed more capital before the war than previous to the depression of prices, *Parker* 12563–12573——Farmers in Scotland not more remarkable for the possession of capital than the farmers of most parts of England, *Burgess* 16089——Large capital occasioned by a rise in price, let loose upon the purchase of British corn, would be of greater advantage to those farmers with capital, *Hodgson* 6348, 6349.

3. *Diminution of Capital and nature of outgoings paid out of it.*

Diminution of the capital of farmers, particularly as regards small farmers and those on clay soils, *Houghton* 697–700; *Kemp* 1964; *Page* 2683–2686; *Smallpiece* 2861–2863, 2988, 2989, 3019, 3020; *Babbs* 3251; *Morton* 3675–3679; *Sherborn* 4011–4014; *Tillyer* 4165, 4183; *David* 4276, 4355; *Ellman* 4546–4551, 4660, 4661; *Sanders* 6758; *Calthrop* 8036, 8037; *Howden* 9979, 10167; *Stares* 11680–11684; *Burgess* 15961, 16081–16083, 16216——Farmers have less money capital than they had twenty years ago, but more stock, *Robertson* 13722–13725——Rent, taxes, tithes, and wages paid out of capital in 1833, *Jacob* 262——Rent paid out of capital, *Brickwell* 355; *Kemp* 2004; *Babbs* 3236; *Howard* 5333–5336, 5377——Wages paid out of capital, *Bowyer* 3612–3614; *Howard* 5445; *Umbers* 8538–8540; *Freeland* 14846–14850.

4. *Capital laid out in the improvement of land, and return in consequence.*

Effect of capital in causing improvements in agriculture, *Jacob* 98——Extract from Mr. Huskisson's agricultural report of 1821, relative to the general public improvements made by private capital, *Jacob* 302–304——Farms being bought by men of capital, and farms taken possession of by landlords, have been attended with outlay of capital which has increased the productive power of the land, *Page* 2813–2822; *Hodgson* 6526–6528——Whether landed proprietors would have invested capital in the improvement of their estates had they expected wheat to fall to 50*s*.; there is no reason to expect prices will be much higher, *Menzies* 14109, 14110——More capital has been laid out upon all light and the fen lands within the last few years than formerly, *Sanders* 6764–6768——More capital could be beneficially expended on witness's farm, *Kemp* 2058——Witness's capital has been regularly increasing from the improvements made on the land, *Hall* 4902, 4903——That invested in the improvement of land in Ireland some years ago is now beginning to tell upon the produce of the soil, *Sanders* 6067——Has been expended in improving farms, *Walker* 10571–10575——No diminution of capital embarked in the cultivation of land, *Robertson* 13646, 13647.

5. *Employment of Capital in Ireland in improving tillage lands, or in reclaiming bog lands.*

Capital would be better at first expended in Ireland in improving the system of husbandry on lands already in tillage than in reclaiming bogs, *Clarke* 13914——Capital would be better laid out in the improvement of ill cultivated lands, or reclaiming bogs, as a means of relief to Ireland, than in assisting emigration, *Clarke* 13918——If capital introduced to reclaim waste lands, there is employment in Ireland for every soul for years to come, *Brassington* 14776——But the land already in cultivation should be first improved, *Brassington* 14777.

See also *Agricultural Distress*, 1. *Agriculture. Agricultural Labourers*, 8. *Cultivation* II. 1. III. 1. *Farmers*, 3. *Farms*, 2. 3. *Graziers. Labouring Classes. Landlords. Leases. Manufacturing Interest. Profit and Loss. Prussia. Rent*, 3. 4. 7. *Speculations*, 2. *Tenantry*, 1. 2. *Waste Land.*

Capitalists. Fall in prices from the resumption of cash payments has been injurious to small capitalists; advantageous to some large ones, and been prejudicial to all the industrious classes, *Muntz* 16498–16500.

See also *Cash Payments. Farmers*, 3. *Labour. Moss Land.*

Carpet Manufactory. Establishment of a carpet manufactory in America, which is prosperous, but the whole profits have been laid out in the trade, *Crowther* 13345–13353.

Carraway Seeds. Witness is a grower of carraway seeds, but it is an isolated case, *Cramp* 9500.

Carrick, District of. Complaints by farmers there of injury to their corn by crows, *Brown* 12224

659

Cash Payments. It would have been better not to have returned to gold so soon, *Boughton* 761–775——Contraction of currency and fall in prices caused by the measure of 1819, *Thurnall* 2591–2596; *Sanders* 6134–6186; *Calthrop* 7949, 7950; *Ellis* 10806–10810; *Hancock* 11350–11359; *Freeland* 14855–14877; *Spooner* 15599–15617——Resumption of cash payments is the main cause, but not the only one, of the low price of wheat, *Calthrop* 7949, 7950——Depreciation of prices by the bill of 1819 was cent per cent, *Earl Radnor* 16829, 16830——There was nothing definite fixed respecting Mr. Peel's Bill till the spring of 1819, after a state of previous suffering totally independent of it, *Sanders* 6205–6211——Effect of Mr. Peel's Bill of 1819, which was not the cause of reduced prices, *Muntz* 16398–16403——With regard to the measure of 1819, it was impossible to return from an incontrovertible paper currency to a controvertible one without some restraint on commerce, *Sanders* 6254–6257——Prices would have fallen after 1819 if the measure of that year had not passed, *Sanders* 6302, 6911–6923.

Great dislocation of property from one end of the kingdom to the other, caused by Peel's Bill, *Hodgson* 6425–6431, 6598, 6599——Although the effects of the Bill of 1819 were not foreseen, its disastrous effects have passed by with the exception of some fixed charges on land, *Hodgson* 6511–6519——Among those who purchased land in 1812–1814 and persons having land fixed with hereditary charges, there have been few cases of absolute and irretrievable ruin, *Sanders* 7105——It is better that those cases of hardship should exist, than that fresh injustice should be done by a return to a depreciated currency, *Sanders* 7106–7113——Withdrawal of one-pound notes produced a derangement of accommodation by persons under engagements entered into, *Sanders* 6269, 6270——The Act of 1819 acts with greater severity on land than on manufactures, from its progress down being slow and lingering, *Sanders* 6690, 6691.

Stock-holders and capitalists who were not debtors gained by the measure of 1819; all debtors were losers by it, *Sanders* 7114–7120——The standard of value was altered by Mr. Peel's Bill of 1819, but a greater evil would arise from interfering with it now, *Oliphant* 11216–11221——The ignorance of the farmers of the measure of 1819, of the extent that that measure would affect prices, has been the ruin of thousands, *Langhorn* 9009–9014——Labourers were better off before Mr. Peel's Bill, *Freeland* 14838–14841——Return to cash payments was a severe blow to the tenantry, but had not so much effect on labourers, *Blacker* 15426–15429.

Fall of prices commenced in 1815 on the preparation for a return to cash payments; it first affected the commercial and manufacturing interests, and ultimately fell on the farming interest, *Spooner* 15587–15591——Prices lowered after the war owing to the anticipation of a return to cash payments and to Mr. Peel's Bill of 1819, *Earl Radnor* 16704–16707; *Lord Ashburton* 17061–17068——Supposed and actual effect of Mr. Peel's Bill on prices, *Earl Radnor* 16736–16746——Instead of the Bill of 1819, it would have been just to have altered the standard to an extent equal to the depreciation previously prevailing; difficulty of calculating the depreciation, *Earl Radnor* 16749–16752——Mr. Peel's Bill of 1819 was not a just measure unaccompanied by an alteration of the standard, *Earl Radnor* 16735——Whether the measure of 1819 would have passed without a depreciation of the standard, had Parliament been aware of the actual depreciation that had taken place, *Lord Ashburton* 17582–17585——Witness's proposition in 1819 would not have met the depreciation that did take place; if it had been adopted an adjustment of contracts would have been more incumbent, *Earl Radnor* 16824–16828.

Return to cash payments has not prejudiced agriculture generally, *Earl Radnor* 16833——Further evidence upon the effect of the measure of 1819 and subsequent measure of 1827, *Earl Radnor* 16875–16891——Opinion as to the period when the gold standard and measure of 1819 actually came into full effect, *Sanders* 7121–7128; *Earl Radnor* 16993–16997——Mr. Peel's Bill was a very inconsiderate measure and the evidence taken upon it was diametrically opposite to the interests of the productive classes, *Burgess* 15983–15986——Further evidence upon the want of knowledge by Parliament of the measure of 1797, and of the effect of the depreciation of the measure of 1819, and opinion against the question being now reconsidered, *Lord Ashburton* 17687–17698.

See also *Bank of England Notes. Bank Restriction Act. Bankers, Country. Capitalists. Commercial Distress. Corn Laws*, 3. *Currency*, 1. *Distress. Fixed Incomes. Forgery. Joint Stock Banks. Manufacturing Interest. Mortgages. Price of Corn*, 6. *Productive Classes. Russia.*

Casks. Manner in which casks and staves might be made of English wood, if the West Indies were supplied with flour from Great Britain, *Frean* 15334–15343.

Castle Farm of Thornton. Rotation of crops on Castle Farm of Thornton, *Robertson* 13826.

Castlereagh, Lord. See *Paper Currency.*

Cattle:

1. *Advantages of stock for farming.*
2. *Price of Cattle.*
3. *Use of wheat and malted corn for feeding Cattle.*
4. *Scotch mode of feeding Cattle.*

1. *Advantages of stock for farming.*

Farmers in Essex generally graze their own stock, *Page* 2712——Stock on farms is, in many cases, the property of stock-dealers, who send them to fatten, *Cooper* 5761–5763——Quantity of cattle used as stock, *Brodie* 10395——Number of cattle necessary on a farm of 100 acres; price of cattle, and improvement in the breed, *Brassington* 14763–14769——At present prices of corn, stock is absolutely necessary for cultivating a farm with profit, *Bell* 11913–11921——Fattening cattle causes more manure, and a consequent increase of produce, *Robertson* 13769, 13770; *Menzies* 14082–14089——Capital required for stocking land with cattle depends on the skill of the man stocking, *Brassington*, 14784——Both lean and fat stock are scarce at present, *Crowther* 12876–12881; 13008–13010——Cause of the small stock of cattle in the hands of farmers at present, *Spooner* 15634–15640.

2. *Price of Cattle.*

Low price of stock before Christmas, and increase since, *Brickwell* 544–548——Rise in the price of fat cattle since Christmas attributed to deficient supply, *Bennett*, 8292–8295——Rise in the price of stock attributed to the want of turnips in the south of England, *Church* 13448–13451——Present price of store stock, and whether likely to be remunerative, *Ellis* 10863–10867——The higher price of stock has not remunerated for the lower price of wheat, *Stares* 11737–11738——In some instances farmers have bought lean cattle and sold them fatted for within a few shillings of what they cost at first, *Cortis* 1893–1896——Are sold younger than formerly, but do not fetch so much, *Morton* 3780–3782——Great abundance of turnips enables the farmers of Shropshire to sell their stock nine months earlier than they did 30 years since, *Bickerton* 8754–8755.

3. *Use of wheat and malted corn for feeding Cattle.*

The low price of wheat has caused it to be used in feeding cattle, *Jacob* 197; *Brickwell* 560–563, 565; *Houghton* 822–829, 937–943; *Rolfe* 1418; *Smallpiece* 2853, 2854; *Sherborn* 4023; *Ellman* 4767–4776; *Scott* 5298–5302; *Calthrop* 7804, 7805——Offal or inferior wheat has been used for that purpose, *Jacob* 197; *Cortis* 1792–1794; *Sherborn* 4056–4065; *Tillyer* 4185–4190——Have been killed through eating inferior wheat, *Rolfe* 1578–1581——Wheat boiled is more nutritious than in a ground state, *Bennett* 8335–8337——Malted grain might be beneficially used for feeding cattle, *Cortis* 1811; *Thurnall* 2471, 2472; *Bowyer* 3489, 3490, 3526, 3527; *Morton* 3705–3708; *Howard* 5564–5572——Will never answer to feed cattle with malt, *Tillyer* 4259——Barley sprouted, but not dried, used for feeding cattle, *Morton* 3707.

4. *Scotch mode of feeding Cattle.*

Particulars as to an economical mode of feeding cattle, *Howden* 10044–10048——Reports to the East Lothian Agricultural Society on the experimental feeding of cattle, *Howden* 10049–10051——Profit arising from feeding cattle with beans, *Howden* 10083, 10084——Further evidence as to cattle-feeding, particularly as regards raw potatoes, *Howden* 10206–10213——Tabular view of an experiment on feeding cattle on different kinds of food, as tried at Caledar, in winter 1835–6, *Blacker* 15500——Letter from W. J. Dawson, Esq. of Dundalk, on the different modes of fattening cattle, *Blacker* 15500——Statement of Thomas Knox Armstrong, Esq. on the same subject, *Blacker* 15500——Comparative qualities of potatoes and turnips for feeding cattle, *Blacker* 15500——Extent of turnip cultivation, and comparative merits of turnipsand potatoes for feeding cattle, *Blacker* 15409–15412.

See also *Barley*, V. 1. *Clay Lands*, 8. *Clover-seed. Consumption of Wheat. Cropping Grass Land. Irish Corn Manure. Pasture Land. Price of Corn*, 8, 10. *Profit and Loss. Rent*, 7. *Rot*, 1. *Scotch Cattle. Steam Navigation. Stock on Hand. Turnips.*

Chalk, has been used as manure in Essex for the last half century, *Babbs* 3354, 3355.

Chalking. See *Draining.*

Chatmoss. Particulars as to the nature of the draining and cultivation pursued on Chatmoss, and as to the profit or loss thereon, *Ellis* 10879–10941.

Cheese. Price of cheese in Ayrshire very high, *Brown* 12323.
See also *Dunlop Cheese.*

Cheese Rents. Mode of calculating them, *Brown* 12171–12176.

Cheques. They are more used as a medium of circulation than formerly, *Langhorn* 7696–7700——Farmers do not use more cheques now than they did in 1824, *Langhorn* 7773.

661

Cheshire. Taking the whole county of Cheshire, the estates are mortgaged to one-third of their value, *Burgess* 16103–16106.

Chevalier Barley. Barley grown near Nantes almost equal to the chevalier barley, *Calthrop*, 8026.

Church, James. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Resident at the tower of Sark, in the county of Dumfries, farming 650 acres rented of the Duke of Buccleugh, 13388–13392——Particulars as to the mode of cross-draining adopted on the farm, and improvement in consequence, 13393–13411——In the year 1806 the farm was a heath with moor game upon it, but was limed and drained by witness, and great crops of oats, turnips and wheat are now obtained from it, 13412–13436——Rise in the price of stock attributed to the want of turnips in the south of England, 13448–13451——Farmers in Scotland and upon the border depend for remuneration on all their crops taken together, and not upon grain solely, 13457–13462——Difficult to say whether farmers are richer than they were twenty years ago, 13463–13466——Scotch one-pound notes are advantageous to farmers, 13467–13472——Amount of rent paid on witness's present and former lease, 13473–13480——Produce per acre of wheat and oats, 13484–13486——Impossible to farm well with only grain; necessity for sheep and lambs, 13488–13491——Witness's success has caused tenants adjoining to cultivate moor-land, and some of them with short leases, 13498–13503——State of agriculture is a question resting much more with landlord and tenant than the Legislature, 13504–13508——Cost of draining per acre, 13509–13511——A number of small tile-kilns save the distance of carriage, 13512, 13513—Advantages of slates; price per thousand, 13514–13517——The gross produce on both the English and Scotch side of the border has increased since 1819, 13521–13524——One-third less wheat sown this year, 13526——A return published annually of the quantity of wheat, barley and oats sown would encourage speculation, 13527–13529——There is every appearance of a rise in the price of wheat, 13530–13534 ——British clover-seed considered as good as the foreign, 13535, 13536, 13541–13544——Taking the duty off clover-seed would injure the people in the south who grow it, 13537–13540——Double quantity of lime put in on the second liming; remarkable effect of lime in producing clover, 13545–13547——The upper part of Dumfries-shire much improved in the last ten years; it is cultivated in a very superior manner, 13549, 13550——Improvements on different estates in Scotland, which shows a great increase of all agricultural produce, especially wheat, 13551–13559——A return of the crops must be compelled by law, and officers appointed for obtaining them, which would cause great expense, 13560–13564——Difficulties of the times and low prices have been met, in Scotland and in the north of England, by increased exertions on the part of landlords and tenants, 13565–13567——Sixty-four shillings for wheat would be merely remunerating, there would not be much profit attached; if lower, land would be cultivated with other corn, 13572–13574——To what extent the price of wheat governs the price of other grain on a long tract of years, 13575–13577——Labourers were never more comfortable than they are now, 13579, 13580——Rate of wages, 13581–13584——A small piece of land allowed labourers for the growth of potatoes, 13585–13588——Class of witnesses that are examined when the fiars are struck, 13592–13595.

Cider. Effect a repeal of the malt duty would have on the price of cider, *Bickerton* 8782–8784.

Circulating Medium. Desirable to have a mixed circulation of paper and gold, *Sanders* 7131——Extent to which the circulating medium of the country would be increased by witness's plan; present extent of it, *Spooner* 15779–15788——Of what the circulating medium of the country consists, *Burgess* 15930.

See also *America. Bank of England Notes. Banks, Country*, 1. *Bills of Exchange. Cash Payments. Cheques. Continent Currency. Distress. Manufacturing Districts. Price of Corn*, 1, 8, 11. *Saving Banks. Twenty-one day Bills.*

Clarke, Rev. *Charles.* (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Nature of the Irish Poor Inquiry Commission, particularly as regards agriculture in Ireland, 13847, 13848——Course of agriculture in Connaught, which is of the rudest kind possible, 13849–13851——Land hard cropped for oats and then allowed to go waste till it recovers itself, and in three years is covered with a beautiful short herbage, 13851, 13852——Parts of the province that are unfavourable to the growth of wheat from the wet climate, 13853–13855——Evidence upon the growth of wheat, course of tillage and size of farms in Galway, Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim, 13857–13869——More oats might be sent from Connaught, if the land cultivated by men of knowledge and capital, 13870–13876——Necessity for Irish oats being kiln-dried, 13878, 13879——Immense quantities of bog land in the different baronies fit for reclamation, many of them with very little labour, 13883, 13884——There is a great deal of pasture and mountain land, the pasture being generally good, 13885, 13886——Drainage very much wanted in Ireland, 13887——Names of landed proprietors who have turned their attention to reclaiming waste lands, 13888–13890——If capital and machinery applied to those lands, they would yield a profitable return, 13893, 13894——Landed proprietors are making great exertions to teach the people a better system of husbandry, 13896—Agricultural school in Mayo is a failure, 13897–13899——Flax always grown on the best land; flax is not now considered worth growing, from the low price, 13900–13907——Lime and lime-gravel used in reclaiming bogs, 13908–13910——Capital would be

Clarke, Rev. *Charles*. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued*.

better at first expended in Ireland in improving the system of husbandry on lands already in tillage than in reclaiming bogs, 13914——Amount per acre paid for reclaiming bog lands; amount of rent per acre paid for such land afterwards, 13915–13917——Capital would be better laid out in the improvement of ill cultivated lands or reclaiming bogs, as a means of relief to Ireland, than in assisting emigration, 13918——Emigration or migration from populous districts in some cases necessary, 13919–13921——The reclaiming lands by Lord Clonbrock has given an increased demand for labour in the cultivation of those lands, although his system has been to increase the size of his farms, 13923–13927——Agricultural distress is more in the country than in towns, caused both by the short crop of potatoes, and by the old ones becoming bad before the new ones come in, 13935–13941.

Clayings. One good claying would last for many years, *Burnett* 8320.

Clay Farmers. See *Agricultural Prosperity*.

Clay Lands:

1. *Distress on, causes and extent.*
2. *Bad condition of farmers on, and want of profit.*
3. *Good condition of farmers on, who are farming with a profit.*
4. *Whether a possibility of letting Clay Lands, and difficulty of their paying rent at present prices.*
5. *Price of wheat at which they can be cultivated or will be thrown out of cultivation: effect of the latter, and consequent application af the land.*
6. *Growth of Barley on.*
7. *Produce of Clay Lands, course of cropping, and advantage of dry seasons.*
8. *Extent to which they can be improved; necessity for draining.*

1. *Distress on, causes and extent.*

Distress caused by low price of wheat, *Houghton* 692–694; *Atkinson* 5848, 5958–5971; *Iles* 7318–7321; *Calthrop* 7883–7889, 8008; *Cox* 14116–14119——Persons purchasing them formerly could not see the ultimate decline of price, *Houghton* 1279–1282——Bad management of land, *Tillyer* 4158; *Atkinson* 5844–5848, 5958–5971; *Bickerton* 8675–8677; *Brodie* 10363–10366; *Brown* 12361, 12362——Want of draining, *Ellis* 10773–10777, 10839——Rot in sheep, *Iles* 7318-7321——Distress is greater on clay lands than on turnip and barley, or grass land, *Houghton* 692–694, 1333.

2. *Bad condition of farmers on, and want of profit.*

Farmers on, bearing 20 bushels per acre have not been prosperous, *Houghton* 715–724——Cultivation of clay lands in much the same condition as three years ago, *Ellman* 4508——In a worse condition, *Bickerton* 8675–8677——Clay land farmers in bad condition, particularly where they have not drained, *Ellis* 10773–10777, 10839——Complaints on cold clay lands, *Spooner* 15696–15706——Owners of clay lands are poor landlords who necessarily have poor tenants, *Sanders* 6289——If paper still remained inconvertible there would be causes that would make the worst clay soils unprofitable; imports of corn and flour from Ireland have affected those lands; those clay lands would never have maintained half the present population, *Sanders* 6273–6275——It would be useless to attempt to make the cultivation of bad clay lands profitable, *Sanders* 6290–6292——Improvements in agricultural skill; employment of light land in the production of wheat; less expense of that cultivation; tends to diminish the profit on clay soils, *Sanders* 6276–6279——The prices of agricultural produce the last four years have not enabled farmers on clay lands to pay the current expenses out of their profits, *Calthrop* 8008.

3. *Good condition of farmers on, who are farming with a profit.*

Tenantry on the heavy clay lands in the Weald of Surrey and Sussex are improved, which improvement has not extended to Bucks, *Smallpiece* 2961–2980——Improvement in the condition of farmers on clay soils from dry seasons, *Smallpiece* 2920–2924——Where clay farmers have been prosperous it has been from extraordinary seasons, *Ellis* 10776–10782, 10783——Clay lands have not been worse off than others during the late fine seasons, *Neave* 9389–9391——Particulars as to a farmer of cold clay land in Warwickshire who is making money, *Crowther* 13300, 13311——Has been farmed to a profit within the last three years from the great crops, *Crowther* 12777–12778, 12801–12803, 12842——Profits as good now as three years ago on clay lands with wheat at 60*s*., *Crowther* 13298, 13299.

4. *Whether a possibility of letting Clay Lands, and difficulty of their paying rent at present prices.*

Difficulty in letting, *Morton* 3681–3684; *Cooper* 5690–5694——Rental value of a clay farm ten years ago belonging to the Countess of Bridgewater, for which a tenant cannot now be obtained, *Bickerton* 8678–8682——Nature and quality of the land is the cause that the farm of the Countess of Bridgewater, which is untenanted, cannot be let, *Bickerton* 8769–8772——Clay lands let readily at fair rents, *Iles* 7521–7523; *Bell* 12019——Farm of stiff heavy land at Earlsham, purchased in 1813 for 4,000*l*., now offered for 2,000*l*.

663

CLAY LANDS.—4. *Whether a possibility of letting Clay Lands, and difficulty of their paying rent at present prices*—continued.

2,000 *l.* and cannot be sold; average produce and rates on that land, *Cooper* 5696–5702——Rents cannot be paid on, unless the price of wheat rises, *Houghton* 1171; *Rolfe* 1398; *Brodie* 10363–10366——Clay lands would not bear the same rent as thirteen years ago, *Iles* 7449–7452——Rent and tithes on clay lands of the best quality is 30*s.* an acre, *Cox* 14127–14130.

5. *Price of wheat at which they can be cultivated or will be thrown out of cultivation; effect of the latter, and consequent application of the land.*

Fair clay lands could be kept in cultivation with wheat at an average of 60*s.* a quarter, *Calthrop* 7969, *Crowther* 13298, 13299——Probability of their being thrown out of cultivation at present or lower prices, *Calthrop* 7883–7889, *Houghton* 1089–1091, *Sanders* 6730–6732, 6752, 6830–6833——Unless some cheaper mode of cultivating is discovered, *Sanders* 6041, 6042——If the present standard of value adhered to, *Spooner* 15802–15803——The worst of clay land cannot afford to grow wheat at 40*s.* a quarter, *Sanders* 6752——Those producing from 20 to 24 bushels per acre cannot be cultivated with wheat under 50*s.*, *Sanders* 6830–6833——Their being thrown out of cultivation would cause an import every year, which would substitute foreign for home labour, *Calthrop* 7891, 7892——If thrown out of wheat cultivation, they may become sheep-walks, *Calthrop* 7883–7889——It will take many years to turn cold clay lands to grass without capital being laid out upon them, *Sanders* 6896–6898——Clay lands run out will grow natural grasses without much outlay, but will never become decent pasture, *Calthrop* 7965–7968——Extent to which it is available for making bricks, *Atkinson* 5983——Nothing can be grown on clay lands that will pay better than wheat, though present prices do not remunerate, *Iles* 7367, 7368——Clay lands can be well applied to flax, potatoes and mangel wurzel, *Blacker* 15501——Flax cannot be cultivated to advantage on clay lands, *Hancock*, 11297.

6. *Growth of barley on.*

Will not generally in Buckinghamshire grow barley, though they will in a dry summer, *Morton* 3960——Good barley grown upon clay lands in Huntingdonshire, *Bowyer* 3476——Quantity produced on an average of three years, *Bowyer* 3494–3496——It malts well, particularly if sown early, *Bowyer* 3568——Clay land will not grow so much barley as the best turnip lands, but it would be equal in quality, *Bowyer* 3491–3493——The old system was to grow as many acres of barley as wheat, but from 1833–1835 three acres of wheat were sown to one of barley, *Bowyer* 3482——Good barley can be grown on clay lands that have been well drained *Bickerton* 8713, 8714.

7. *Produce of Clay Lands; course of cropping, and advantage of dry seasons.*

They are less productive when farmers badly off, *Atkinson* 5958–5971; *Iles* 7388–7390——Heavy lands require the most animal labour, *Jacob* 273——Produce on clay farms upon the whole has not diminished, *Iles* 7517–7520——They yield a crop only once in two years; they have not been occupied to advantage the last two years; course of husbandry, *Byron* 8407–8409——Those cropped every third year with wheat will become impoverished, *Brown* 12361, 12362——Rotation of crops for clay lands, *Robertson* 13826——Average produce of clay lands, *Cox* 14131——Dry seasons best for, in Buckinghamshire, *Brickwell* 475——Will do for sheep in dry weather, but not in wet, *Houghton* 1283——Proportion of wheat grown on heavy soils; dry seasons suit those soils, *Sturge* 7213–7216.

8. *Extent to which they can be improved; necessity for draining.*

Improvements cannot take place to the same extent on heavy as on light soils, *Houghton*, 992–996——Proportion heavy land bears to light lands; improvements on the latter, while the former has remained stationary or gone back, *Houghton* 1004–1011, 1023——More wheat could be grown per acre, and sheep might be kept on the clay lands if they were drained, *Atkinson* 5849–5852——Clay lands may be improved with capital, *Sanders* 6730–6732——Suggestions for the management of a clay farm, *Iles* 7423——Rental value per acre of clay land well drained, *Walker* 10668–10670——Improvements on the clay lands, and increased produce, particularly from farmers draining, *Oliphant* 11093–11096——Inferior clay lands could not have been cultivated to any advantage but from furrow-draining, *Oliphant* 11157–11169——Difficult to keep sheep on the clay land on account of the rot, even if it were drained; it is susceptible of improvement if capital laid out on it, *Boniface* 13842–13845.

Clay lands of England might be improved by the growth of more green food and keeping a proper quantity of stock for manure, and well liming and draining the land, which system would cause them to produce three times as much as they do now, *Blacker* 15497–15500.

See also *Barley* III., 2. *Bone Manure. Capital*, 3. *Draining. Failures. Farmers*, 2. *Four-course Husbandry. Labour. Leases. Lime. Malt Tax*, 3. *Rent*, 4. *Rot*, 1. *Scotch Husbandry. Sheep. Turnip Land. Upland Farmers.*

Clergy. The resident clergy get very little for their tithes; they make great sacrifices, *Howard* 5463, 5464——Clergymen of the church of Scotland are paid according to the fiars, *Oliphant* 11106.

See also *Tithes.*

Clothing. Allowance to labourers in Sussex for clothes, *Goodman* 11014, 11015.

CLOVER-SEED:

1. *Quantity sown, and produce per acre; preference of English or foreign seed.*
2. *Duty on, and advantages or disadvantages of abolishing or reducing it.*

1. *Quantity sown, and produce per acre; preference of English or foreign seed.*
Quantity sown per acre; price per cwt. and per lb., *Page* 2752–2754——Per bushel, *Babbs* 3307, 3308; *Bowyer* 3585–3592, 3600——Is very favourable for the growth of wheat and oats, *Ellman* 4844, 4845, 4859——Is not grown to any extent in Lincolnshire, *Iles* 7335——Produce of clover per acre, and price as consumed on the land; without great care it has a pernicious effect on the cattle, *Umbers* 8556–8561——Witness not allowed to sell his clover-seed; it is all expended on the premises, *Umbers* 8558——Is a very uncertain crop, *Bickerton* 8727, 8728——Second crop of clover is taken for seed, *Neave* 9449——English clover-seed fetches a higher price than foreign, *Hope* 9730–9732——British considered as good as foreign, *Church* 13535, 13536, 13541–13544; *Calthrop* 8108——Foreign seed not so good as English, *Hancock* 11326–11335; *Stares* 11785–11787——Dutch seed preferred, *Walker* 10680–10685——Fully as good as the English, *Bell* 12064–12074.

2. *Duty on, and advantages or disadvantages of abolishing or reducing it.*
Duty on, *Bowyer* 3585–3592, 3600——The duty on clover-seed amounts to 2*s.* 6*d.* an acre direct tax, *Oliphant* 11267–11269——Repeal of the duty on clover-seed would be beneficial, *Bickerton* 8726; *Hope* 9733–9735——Duty on clover-seed should be removed to upset the monopoly enjoyed by the few counties that grow it; Dutch clover fully as good as the English, *Bell* 12064–12074——No advantage to the farming interest to take off the duty on clover-seed, *Houghton* 1337–1340; *Babbs* 3309, 3310; *Smallpiece* 3012–3017; *Morton* 3984, 3985; *Sherborn* 4115; *Iles* 7420; *Hancock* 11326–11335——Opinion against a reduction of duty, *Page* 2752–2754, 2759–2766; *Calthrop* 8101–8108; *Neave* 9373–9382——It would be the ruin of farmers who grow clover-seed, *Bowyer* 3594–3596; *Ellman* 4840–4860; *Church* 13537–13540; *Stares* 11781–11784——It would cause a great quantity of labour to be disused, *Umbers* 8465–8467, 8633–8636——It would benefit the wold farmer and injure the clay farmer, *Iles* 7429–7437——Abolition of the duty on clover-seed would be an advantage to the Scotch farmer, but not to the English grower, *Howden* 10198–10205; *Brodie* 10396–10401; *Walker* 10680–10685; *Goodman* 11004–11006; *M'Dougal* 14568–14579——It would cause a local injury without an adequate general benefit, *Parker* 12611–12613.

Coals. Price of in Buckinghamshire, and facility with which they are obtained, *Brickwell* 374.

Coasting Vessels. Parties at the Custom-house are not very particular what they put into the cocquets of coasting vessels, *Jacob* 157.

Coke, Mr. Clover and turnip system introduced by him at Holkham many years ago, *Spooner* 15697.

Collectors of Land Tax. Rate of allowance to collectors, receiving officers of counties, and clerks to commissioners, *Wood* and *Garnett,* 9057.

Colonies. See *American Flour. Bonded Corn,* 6. *Demand* and *Supply.*

Commercial Classes. See *Agricultural Produce.*

Commercial Credit. See *Bank o England Notes.*

Commercial Distress. Disastrous effects on commerce upon the Congress of the Allied Sovereigns decreeing, in the autumn of 1818, that the Allied troops should leave France, and which took place before Mr. Peel's Bill was named, *Sanders* 6204——Commercial distress of 1819 arose from political causes; that distress was mitigated in 1820, *Sanders* 6932, 6933——If there were a recurrence of that distress, there might again be a scarcity of money and demand of gold from abroad, *Sanders* 6934——Examination upon the causes of the pressure in the money market in 1793, and 1797, and 1810, and upon the necessity of having a standard with greater power of adapting itself to the wants of the country than the old standard of gold and silver, *Spooner* 15686–15690——Extent to which alterations in the currency was a cause of commercial adversity in 1815, and 1816, and 1821, Lord *Ashburton* 17548–17550.

Commercial Interests. See *Cash Payments. Price of Corn,* 10. *War.*

Commercial and Manufacturing Interests. Present state of prosperity of the commercial and manufacturing interests will not continue, prices being above the standard of value, *Spooner* 15647, 15648——Reason why they have not in their contracts adjusted themselves to the present standard of value, *Spooner* 15766–15778.

Commercial Nations. See *Manufacturing Interests.*

Commercial Prosperity. See *County Rate,* 3.

Commissions. See *Joint Stock Banks.*

Commissariat Department. Prices of bread and meat bought by the commissariat department during the years 1815 to 1835 inclusive, *App. II. p.* 284.

Commission Merchants. High prices are decidedly to the interest of the commission merchant, *Sturge* 7189.

Commutation of Tithes. See *Agricultural Distress*, 6. *Tithes*, 2.

Composition for Tithes. See *Tithes*, 1.

Con acre System. Rents at which Lord Trimlestown's land in King's county was let for thirteen years in con acre, *Shawe* 14382, 14383——Tenants consider they may let in con acre system, except in cases of large farms, *Shawe* 14482–14487——Con acres as much followed as ever, but the land is more burnt, *Brassington* 14614——Rent of con acres and number of crops taken in succession, *Brassington* 14628–14633——Increase of the con acre system; manner in which it causes a larger rent to be paid to the landlord; evils of the system, particularly as regards burning the land, *Brassington* 14715–14722.

Connaught. Course of agriculture in Connaught, which is of the rudest kind possible, *Clarke* 13849–13851.

See also *Cropping.*

Consolidated Fund. See *County Rates*, 3.

Constable's Rate. It is included in poors' rates; it is very trifling at Blythborough, *Cooper* 5687.

Consumers. See *Price of Corn*, 9.

Consumption of Wheat. Declining as compared with population, *Jacob* 26–32; *Morton* 3789–3792——Caused by greater consumption of potatoes, *Jacob* 26–32——Potatoes have not decreased the consumption of wheat, *Houghton* 1025–1031——Production has exceeded consumption, *Calthrop* 8006, 8007; *Oliphant* 11239–11254——Has increased, *Jacob* 215–217; *Houghton* 1025–1031; *Ellman* 4515; *Ruding* 17174–17176——Has been increased from the quantity used in feeding cattle, *Brickwell* 560, 563–565; *Bowyer* 3526, 3527; *Scott* 5298–5302——There was a very improvident consumption of wheat about eighteen months ago in Shropshire, *Bickerton* 8843——Not greater than formerly, *Sherborn* 4021——Not much difference in the consumption of wheat within the last two or three years, *Rolfe* 1470——No diminution in the demand for wheat in Huntingdonshire, *Bowyer* 3438——No decrease in the demand for wheat on the part of the labourer, *Iles*, 7352.

See also *Beer Duty. Growth of Wheat. Harvests*, 2. *Irish Corn*, 1. *Population. Price of Corn*, 6, 8. *Produce of Corn. Sales of Corn. War*, 3. *Wool*, 2.

Continent. A more accurate account of the growth of wheat kept there than in England, *Jacob* 78——Crop of 1834 was very fine on the Continent, *Ruding* 17204——Greater fluctuations in the price of corn on the Continent than here, though the prices do not rise above those in our markets, *Hodgson* 6543–6546——Circulating medium in most of the continental states has greatly increased, which has caused a great extension and improvement of productive industry, *Burgess* 16014–16022——The continent is every day superseding us in trade, *Muntz* 16690.

See also *Birmingham Manufactures. Bullion. Fixed Duty*, 5. *Gold Standard. Price of Corn*, 4, 11. *Produce of Corn. Wool*, 2.

Contraction of the Currency. See *Agricultural Distress*, 5. *Bank of England Notes. Currency. Cash Payments.*

Contracts. It would be just that a rectification should take place of all contracts existing previous to 1819, that were affected by the alteration of the currency at that period; but there are doubts as to its practicability, *Earl of Radnor* 16797–16811——If an alteration of the standard took place, an equitable adjustment of contracts would still be advisable, *Earl of Radnor* 16999–17002——Attempting to adjust contracts might do more injustice than justice, *Lord Ashburton* 17663–17665, 17708–17711——Impossibility of adjusting the contracts of persons holding portions of the national debt, *Lord Ashburton* 17736–17741.

See also *Cash Payments. Commercial Manufacturing Interests. Debt, National. Paper Currency. Silver Standard. War*, 2. *Weights and Measures.*

Convent. Employment of agricultural labourers of Warwickshire in the erection of a convent, *Umbers* 8511.

Cooper, James Grindling. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Cultivation of land near Blythburgh in Suffolk is but little deteriorated since 1833, 5618——Farmers are worse than in 1833; they are bordering on ruin, 5619——Average produce of wheat and barley per acre in 1833 and 1834, 5625–5628——Reduction of wages since 1832 from farming produce being cheaper, 5629–5634—— Poors' rate reduced since 1834, 5635——Labourers worse off than in 1833, many out of employment, 5637, 5638—— Poor Law Act has reduced rates, and its moral effect has been good on labourers in employment, 5639–5645——System of husbandry, 5646–5648——Rents have been reduced in cases of fresh

Cooper, James Grindling. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

hires, 5651——Amount of rent on different descriptions of land farmed by witness, 5652–5655——Price of wool, which is remunerating, compared with 1823, 5657–5661——Low price of barley of the crop of 1835, from the season not being suitable to barley, 5664–5670——Average price of wheat at the weight of 62 lbs. to the bushel, 5671–5675——Poors' rates and all sums included in them should be borne by the property of the kingdom at large, 5676——Rate per acre of poors' rates and increase in the total amount from 1824–1834, 5677–5688——Difficulty of letting heavy-land farms when untenanted, 5690–5694——Taking a circle of twenty miles in the neighbourhood of Blythburgh, the cultivation is not so good as a few years back, 5695——Farm of stiff, heavy land at Earlsham, purchased in 1813 for 4,000*l.*, now offered for 2,000*l.* and cannot be sold; average produce and rates on that land, 5696–5702——Amount of witness's loss on his farm since 1830, 5703–5711, 5808–5810——An extension of currency proposed as a means of relief; it would increase the price of corn, although the farmer's outgoings would be increased, 5712–5726——Farming tradesmen's bills have not been reduced; they complain of not being able to get in their bills, 5727–5733——Rise in the price of wool occasioned by the rot in 1829 and 1830, 5734–2743——Low price of wheat attributed to want of speculation more than to redundant quality, 5744–5751——Difference in the proportion between wool and wheat attributed to the great demand for manufactured articles, 5745, 5750–5753——Tendency to fall from a diminution of currency may be met by a tendency to rise from a diminution of crop, 5754–5755——Presumed intentions of those farmers who take land not having sufficient capital to cultivate it, 5756–5759——Stock on farms is in many cases the property of stock-dealers who send them to fatten, 5761–5763——Farmers as a body are insolvent, though there are many exceptions, 5764–5765——Labourers unable to get employment are dissatisfied with the Poor Law Act, 5766–5769——Rates would have been reduced under the old poor law from provisions being cheaper, 5772——If all rates removed, wheat could not be grown at 5*s.* a bushel, though it could at 7*s.*, 5774–5776——Migration of labourers to manufacturing districts who have families suitable; the expense is great, and but few families have gone, 5770, 5771, 4780–5786——Condition of labourers would be better with higher prices; those in regular employment and with small families are comfortably off, 5787–5790——Number out of employment, 5791——Rent of cottages, 5795–5799——There is not a greater breadth of wheat than usual; leases are prepared for the four-course system, 5801, 5802——Landlords are making less of the land than they did, 5804——There is a competition of farming tradesmen in the village, 5807——Witness's rent has been lowered from 12 to 12½ per cent., 5815.

Corn. Crops and prices of wheat from 1815 to 1835, *App. III., p.* 554——Total quantity of corn and malt sent coastwise from Eagland to Scotland in ten years ending January 1836, *App.* III., *p.* 556—— Quantity of grain and meal carried coastwise from one port of Scotland to another during each of the ten years ending 5th January 1836, *App. III., p.* 604——Prices of wheat and barley at Dantzig, Hamburg and Rotterdam during the years 1825 to 1835, *App. III., p.* 615.

See also *Bonded Corn. Cattle. Consumption of Wheat. Flour. Growth of Wheat. Foreign Corn. Irish Corn. Prices of Corn. Quality of Corn. Smuggling Corn. Speculations,* 2. *Spring Crops. Stock of Corn on Hand. Weight of Wheat. Wheat, and the names of the different descriptions of Corn under their respective headings.*

Corn Dealers. See *Price of Corn,* 6. *Stock of Corn on hand.*

Corn Laws:

1. *Effect of the Corn Laws generally, and Opinions for and against alteration.*
2. *Advantages of the present Corn Laws.*
3. *Disadvantages of the present Corn Laws.*
4. *Duty on Corn, and Alterations proposed.*
5. *Manner in which the Corn Laws affect prices.*

1. *Effect of the Corn Laws generally, and Opinions for and against alteration.*

Unfounded expectations of manufacturers, wishing to do away with the protection of the corn laws, should be crushed, *Hall* 5002——Corn laws could not now be repealed without great danger, *Crowther* 13034——They should not be tampered with, *Parker* 12434–12442——Protection given to corn is not materially greater than that given to other staple commodities, *Sanders* 6317——It would be unfair to give either manufacturers or agriculturists any special protection, *Hodgson* 6668–6672——The present corn laws have diminished speculation in British corn, *Hodgson* 6350——They are in favour of a speculation in British corn, *Ruding* 17079–17083, 17208–17226——If the present corn laws continue, the only mode of relieving the farmer is an adjustment with his landlord, *Parker* 12595–12604.

Supply from abroad might be increased materially if there were no corn laws, *Scott* 5089–5093—— —Advantages to commerce and manufactures from a free trade in corn, *Fison* 12693–12700——Under the present corn laws a larger profit would be realized on British corn before it came into competition with foreign corn, *Ruding* 17079–17083——Alteration of the corn law would raise the price of labour abroad, and so benefit the manufacturer,

667

Corn Laws:—1. *Effect of the Corn Laws generally, and opinions for and against alteration*—continued.

turer, *Fison* 12722, 12723——British agriculturist should be protected, but not at the expense of the community at large, who should also be protected by giving some encouragement to foreign agriculture, *Ruding* 17257–17266——They have caused foreign corn land to be cultivated with seeds and other produce, which may cause a short supply, in the event of a bad harvest here, *Ruding* 17254–17256.

2. *Advantages of the present Corn Laws.*

Advantages of the present corn laws, *Brickwell* 662–664; *Houghton* 1185; *Calthrop* 7859, 7860——They give the protection of a monopoly of the market, *Bell* 12031–12041; *Blacker* 15507——They give a sufficient protection to the English grower, *Parker* 12434–12442; *Ruding* 17087——Present protecting duties have worked well, *Cortis* 1902——Not a sufficient protection, *Umbers* 8527——Against import of corn from Ireland, *Thurnall* 2597——Protection afforded by them is absolutely necessary to the farmer, *Hall* 5002; *Langhorne* 9019——Farmers will continue to cultivate their land during the continuance of the present corn laws, *Calthrop* 8090, 8142——They caused improved agriculture here and diminished the quantity of corn grown abroad, *Hayes* 17392–17435——Corn laws prevent a supply from abroad, except in cases of actual scarcity, *Ruding* 17077, 17078——Under the present corn laws, in nine seasons out of ten, the produce is sufficient, *Calthrop* 7889, 7890; *Blacker* 15507——The importation has never exceeded a month's consumption, *Ruding* 17087——Corn laws, by keeping up the price of produce to a reasonable extent, benefit Ireland, *Brassington* 14761.

3. *Disadvantages of the present Corn Laws.*

They encourage gambling in foreign corn, *Hodgson* 6375–6379——Though better than those of 1815 are not very advantageous to the agriculturist, *Hodgson* 6354——The agriculturists have suffered more from the present system of corn laws than any other body, *Sturge* 7226——Manner in which the present corn laws act injuriously to the occupier of the soil, *Hope* 9737–9738, 9767–9773, 9863–9867; *Howden* 10118–10122; *Fison*, 12678–12679; *Crowther* 13034; *Muntz* 16624–16628——Corn law of 1828 has been of no benefit for the last three years, *Howden* 10230——Corn laws with the present standard of value are a dead letter, *Spooner* 15822, 15823, 15834, 15835——Bad effects of the Corn Bill and opinion that it could not remain six months without the Money Bill, or that without the Corn Bill, *Muntz* 16458–16463——If there is a deficient harvest and a deficient supply from abroad, there will be a great rise in price, and the corn laws may be placed in jeopardy, *Hayes* 17473, 17474.

4. *Duty on Corn, and alterations proposed.*

Calculation as to the proportions of duty the different sorts of grain should bear to one another, *Hodgson* 6579–6582——Principle of the vanishing scale of duties is almost invaluable, *Sanders* 6953, 6954——If it was absolutely necessary to adhere to a scale of duties, there might be an improvement in them, so as to afford a better protection, *Umbers* 8574——Reducing the scale at which foreign corn is imported would be beneficial to the payers of corn rents, *Hope* 9743–9747, 9774–9780——Present corn laws allow a greater fluctuation of price than would be if the scale were lowered, *Hope* 9777–9780——Opinion in favour of an alteration of the corn laws by reducing the duty from 70 *s.* to 60 *s.*, *Ellis* 10946–10950——Proposition for a duty of 10 *s.* per quarter on foreign corn, varying according to the pivot price, *Ruding* 17090–17094, 17103–17108, 17160–17162——Under witness's plan the fluctuation would never be so great as under the present high averages and duties, *Ruding* 17100–17102——Evidence upon the profit to the importer; under witness's plan and manner he may save himself from loss by foreign importation, *Ruding* 17109–17118, 17186–17193—— Further evidence against a duty of 6 *s.* or 7 *s.* on foreign corn, *Ruding* 17228–17235——Benefit of witness's plan to the consumer, without hurting the farmer in the event of bad harvests, *Ruding* 17246–17253.

5. *Manner in which the Corn Laws affect prices.*

Corn Laws, by more easily admitting foreign corn, have tended to reduce prices, *Rolfe* 1632–1651; *Umbers* 8617–8619——The present corn law has not been the cause of the present low prices, *David* 4333–4336——Under the present corn laws, there will be a considerable advance in the price of corn, *Sanders* 7019——If there is a deficient harvest and a deficient supply from abroad, there will be a great rise in price, *Hayes* 17473–17474——Have been productive of a steady and moderate price, *Sanders* 6043, 6320——They do not maintain a steady price, *Ruding* 17077–17078——They have at all times had a tendency to produce fluctuation, *Sturge* 7169; *Hope* 9777–9780; *Ellis* 10962–10081——If the scale of duty lowered, the fluctuation would not be so great, *Hope* 9777–9780: *Ruding* 17100–17102——Present corn laws have not fulfilled the expectation that they would have kept up prices to 70 *s.*, *Hope* 9737–9738, 9767–9773, 9863–9867——To 80 *s.*, *Howden* 10118–10122——They deceived farmers as to price, *Hayes* 17392–17435——They cannot keep up the intended price, *Muntz* 16624–16628——They lower prices in times of plenty, and materially increase them in times of dearth, *Hodgson* 6375–6379; *Ruding* 17077, 17078; *Hayes* 17392.

See also *Agricultural Distress*, 5. *Bonded Corn*, 2. *Demand and Supply*. *Irish Corn*, 1. *Leases*. *Malt Tax*, 3. *Price of Corn*, 4.

Corn Rents:

1. *Advantages of Corn Rents.*
2. *Mode by which Corn Rents are fixed.*
3. *Objections to Corn Rents.*

1. *Advantages of Corn Rents.*

Advantages of corn rents, *Oliphant* 11097–11099——Particularly with a maximum, *Howden* 10144–10152; *Brodie* 10345, 10346; *Robertson* 13765–13768——Disadvantages of a minimum, *Howden* 10144–10152; *Brodie* 10345, 10346——The greatest advantage to the farmer has been the conversion of money rents into corn rents, *Howden* 9974–9977, 10219–10222; *Brodie* 10334–10347; *Robertson* 13626–13627, 13648; *Menzies* 13949–13952——Fall in prices rendered such conversion necessary, *Howden* 10168–10170——Period corn rents first used in East Lothian, *Brodie* 10434–10436——Preference of corn to money rent, *Brodie* 10310; *Brown* 12168–12176——Rents sometimes paid partly in corn and partly in money, *Oliphant* 11105; *Brown* 12168–12176——Comparative amount between corn and money rents, *Howden* 9989; *Brodie* 10314–10318——Produce of certain farms estimated by the East Lothian fiars average for 1832–1834, and the turnips and grass at the rents of the district, *Howden* 9985–9988——Wheat is selected as the standard for corn rents, as being the staple of the country, and which will never go out of cultivation, *Howden* 10153–10157——At least two-thirds of the county of Haddington are now converted into corn rents, *Hope* 9647, 9648, 9656——Witness's farm held under a corn rent, *Howden* 9964——Very few corn rents in Dumfries except in Lord Mansfield's property, *Church* 13591.

2. *Mode by which Corn Rents are fixed.*

Manner in which corn rent could be fixed for commutation of different descriptions of produce, *Cramp* 9565–9574——Mode adopted between landlords and tenants of agreeing corn rents according to the fiars, *Howden* 10138–10143; *Walker* 10595–10600; *Robertson* 13783–13789——Price at which wheat calculated for taking a farm at a corn rent or money rent, *Brodie* 10319–10328, 10382, 10383——Corn rents rise and fall according to the price of corn, *Menzies* 14100, 14101.

3. *Objections to Corn Rents.*

Not a good way of adjusting rent; Act of 18 Elizabeth, under which they were established, *Houghton* 793–796——Objection to corn rents from the difficulty of getting correct returns for the averages, *Umbers* 8628——Landlords' incomes reduced under a system of corn rents with low prices, *Hope* 9925–9929.

See also *Corn Laws*, 4. *Harvests*. *Hopetown*, Earl of. *Rent*, 8.

Corn Returns:

1. *Mode in which they are made up, and how far they are correct.*
2. *Opinions in favour and against growers making returns.*

1. *Mode in which they are made up, and how far they are correct.*

Very little dependence to be placed on the statements made by the inspector of corn returns, from the inaccurate manner in which returns of sales are made, *Scott* 5167–5179, 5193–5213——From the returns depending entirely on the state of speculation in the market, *Hodgson* 6341, 6342——Persons neglecting to make returns of quantity sold are subject to a penalty, *Scott* 5180, 5181——Which penalty should be made effectual, *Sanders* 6963–6969——Whether penalties would be more effective if they were exigible on the information of common informers, *Pooley* 9316–9327——Cause of the diminution in the return of corn at Liverpool in 1834 over 1829, and increase in other markets, *Sanders* 6064-6066——Error in the return from Liverpool in 1825, *Sanders* 6243–6248——Returns are made more accurately since 1828, *Sanders* 6243–6248——Corn returns are substantially correct, the errors in them balance themselves, *Sanders* 6944–6946——They give a fair criterion as to prices, but are very delusive as to quantity, *Sturge* 7200–7212——Returns are very well made in Ipswich market, though it is impossible to collect every sale, *Pooley* 9248, 9249——Number of quarters of corn specified in the returns for 1824 is correct, *Pooley* 9272——Mode of obtaining returns at Ipswich and ascertaining their correctness; if private individuals known to make a purchase they would be compelled to make a return, *Pooley* 9253–9263, 9297–9315——Increase of corn sold at Boston 1834 over 1829 is from the increased produce of the feu lands, *Arnall*, 9602–9604——Nearly all the wheat sold is included in the returns, *Arnall* 9608, 9609——The same wheat being returned as sold more than once is of no consequence, provided the sales are *bonâ fide*, *Arnall* 9610–9615——Corn sold in the country districts does not come into the Boston returns, *Arnall* 9616–9622——Returns at Boston are obtained in a conciliatory manner, which it is conceived causes them to be made fairly, *Arnall* 9628.

2. *Opinions in favour and against growers making returns.*

Returns of sales should be made but once, whether it would be advantageous that the grower should make them, *Sanders* 6977–6981——A return might be obtained from the growers, though it would be considered troublesome, *Pooley* 9250, 9328–9333——Ignorance of farmers would prevent sellers' returns being acted on if made, *Arnall* 9599——

669

Corn Returns: Opinions in favour and against Growers making Returns—continued.

It would be safer if the returns were taken from the growers instead of purchasers, *Brodie* 10349——Difficulty that would take place in collecting returns, if sellers had to return as well as buyers, *Pooley* 9250, 9251——Buyers only give in returns, *Pooley* 9244——Farmers would be glad of the opportunity of making a return of the quantity of corn they sell and prices, *Iles* 7530–7534——If farmers returned the amount of sales, and the merchant of purchasers, there might be a collision between the two, *Calthrop* 8161, 8162——The farmer should return in the first instance, and the merchant who buys of that farmer, *Byron* 8410–8413——The corn-merchant's return contains the name of the farmer of whom the purchase made as well as the price and quantity, *Arnall* 9624–9627——Account of the total number of quarters of wheat returned in the years ended 1833, 1834 and 1835, *App. I. p.* 213——Number of quarters of wheat sold in each of the 149 markets from which returns were made, agreeably to the Acts 7, 8 & 9 Geo. 4, from the year 1824, exclusive, to the year 1834, inclusive, *App. I. p.* 215.

See also *Averages. Flour. Ipswich Statistics.*

Corn Spirits. Allowing corn to be distilled into spirits, and those spirits exported, would be a great relief, and no injury to the revenue, *Houghton* 775, 804–806, 930.

Cortis, John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Farmer at Amersham, Bucks, 1746, 1747——Period in which farms have changed hands in the neighbourhood of Amersham, 1760–1765——Not less wheat sown than formerly, 1769–1771——Distress of farmers has caused them to crop their land hard and to use less labour, 1773–1777——Farmers who have suffered from the rot have not been able to replace their stock, 1785, 1786——Per centage of benefit the repeal of the malt tax would be, 1787–1791, 1868–1871——Offal wheat has been used for feeding pigs, 1792–1794——Injury to farmers from the imports of Irish bacon, 1795–1798——Distressed condition of farmers, particularly on poor lands, 1801–1807——High price of mutton, from the failure of turnip crops, 1814–1819.

Wages are too high, compared with the price of produce, 1825–1830——Railroads and other causes prevent many labourers being out of employment, 1831–1833——There has been no amelioration in agriculture since 1833, 1838–1841——Foreign importation has caused the depression of prices, 1850–1859——Importing foreign barley, as an equivalent for the repeal of the malt tax, would not be satisfactory to the farmer, 1863–1865——Admission of foreign barley free of duty would ruin farmers, 1872–1874——Profit and loss on farming on different descriptions of land, 1875–1888——By repealing the malt tax the consumption of barley would be increased much more than the growth, 1898——Present protecting duties have worked well, 1902——Fixed duty would be better if high enough, 1903–1905, 1910, 1911.

Cottage Rents—Are a very serious charge upon labourers in Bucks, *Morton* 3975——Rate of, in Bucks, *Rolfe* 1692–1700——In Dumfries, *Church* 13587——In Essex, *Kemp* 2234–2252; *Babbs* 3369–3372——In Kent, *Neave* 9415–9418——In Lincolnshire, *Atkinson* 5856–5859——In Middlesex, *Sherborn* 4126, 4127——In Shropshire, *Bickerton* 8718——In Suffolk, *Cooper* 5795–5799.

Cottages. Are assessed to the poor under the new Act, *Morton* 3975.

Cottiers. Difference that would be made in the rent of land between a cottier and a farmer if the landlord let the land, *Brassington* 14625–14627——If a middleman let the land, *Brassington* 14634, 14635.

Cottons have, from being cheaper, partly superseded linens; they are not so durable, *Brickwell*, 633.

County Buildings. Opinion of farmers in Lincolnshire, that magistrates are not competent to decide upon the erection of county bridges, &c., which are paid for out of the county rate, *Atkinson* 5902.

See also *Bridges, County.*

County Cess. County cess very high in Ireland, *Sanders* 6117, 6118——Irregular manner in which the county cess is levied; in Kildare, rate per acre is founded on the Down survey, *Shawe* 14278–14283.

County Rate:—

1. *Rate of per acre; whether high or low, increase or decrease.*
2. *Management of in different Counties, and whether its abolition would be an advantage.*
3. *Difficulties with regard to the levying and management, and alterations suggested.*

1. *Rate of per acre; whether high or low, increase or decrease.*

Falls heavier in some counties and parishes than it does in others; proportion to rental, *Houghton* 816–821——Rate per acre or amount of, in Essex, *Parker* 12501–12506——In Middlesex, *Sherborn* 4051——In Somersetshire, *Hancock* 11324——In Sussex, *Goodman* 11031–11034——In the Isle of Thanet, *Cramp* 9524——High rate of, in Bucks, *Brickwell* 343, 344; *Cortis* 1915; *Morton* 3747–3750——In Gloucestershire, *Crowther* 12992–12999——In Lincolnshire, *Atkinson* 5901–5903——In Middlesex, *Sherborn* 4051

County Rate:—1. *Rate of per Acre; whether high or low, increase or decrease*—cont^d.
—In Nottinghamshire, *Stevenson* 13085–13087——In Somersetshire, *Hancock* 11315–11317, 11324——In Sussex, *Ellman* 4829–4835; *Goodman* 11031–11034——In the East Riding of York, *Howard* 5366——Low rate of, in Bucks, *Rolfe* 1690——In Essex, *Parker* 12501–12506, 12574–12585——In the Isle of Thanet, *Cramp* 9524——Increase of, in Bucks, *Tillyer* 4214——In the East Riding of York, *Howard* 5366——There is no diminution therein in Essex since 1833, *Babbs* 3350, 3351——Diminution of in Surrey, to a small extent since 1833, *Smallpiece* 3081–3083.

2. *Management of in different counties, and whether its abolition would be an advantage.*
Difficulty of lightening county rates in Bucks; debts contracted on the security of, *Brickwell* 343, 344——Is well managed in Essex; cottagers that cannot afford to pay are relieved, *Parker* 12574–12585——Has been adjusted in Glamorgan within the last six or eight years, *David* 4423–4425——Reducing it would be very beneficial to farmers in Gloucestershire, *Hall* 4993——Getting rid of it would not be a great relief to the farmers of Somerset, *Hancock* 11338——of Surrey, *Smallpiece* 3089——About threepence per acre in Bucks, *Brickwell* 503–505——Whether the abolition thereof in the county of Bucks would be a greater benefit than five shillings in the pound, *Morton* 3845–3849.

3. *Difficulties with regard to the levying and management, and alterations suggested.*
Difficulty in adjusting it, as regards commercial and manufacturing property, *David* 4423–4425——Evils of house property not being rated to it, *Goodman* 11031–11034——Difficulty of levying them on small owners and occupiers, and small farmers in Somersetshire, *Hancock* 11315–11317——It would be beneficial if they were paid out of the consolidated fund, *Hancock* 11318–11321——Farmers in Lincolnshire object to the magistrates' control over it, *Atkinson* 5901–5903——Opinion in favour of Mr. Hume's proposition that they should be managed by a board, *Crowther* 12992–12999.
See also *Farmers*, 3. *House Property*. *Local Taxation*. *Prices of Corn*, 7.

Cows.—Labourers on the wolds of Lincoln have the privilege of keeping a cow, *Atkinson* 5853–5857——Those who keep them are more to be depended on, *Atkinson* 5859–5863——There is a cow-club at Brockelsby, *Atkinson* 5865–5870——Advances by witness to labourers in Shropshire for the purchase of a cow have always been repaid, *Bickerton* 8720–8725——Number of cows imported into Liverpool from Scotland in 1829 and 1835, *Sanders* 6990——Improvement in the breed of Ayrshire dairy cows, *Brown* 12229–12231——Average price, *Brown* 12239, 12240.

Cox, William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Farming 1800 acres at Scott's Grove in Buckinghamshire; also an appraiser of farming stock and land valuer, 14111–14113——Stiff clay land not farmed to a profit in the last years, owing to the low price of produce, 14116–14119——Description of the three-course system, 14120–14121——Standard price of wheat, which is too low according to the circulating medium, 14122–14126——Rent and tithes on clay land of the best quality is 30*s.* an acre, 14127–14130——Average produce of that land 14131——Farmers on that description of land have been constantly failing for the last five or six years, 14133–14135——Some of the farms have gone into the landlords' hands; condition of them on the tenants leaving, one of them too expensive to cultivate to bear any rent; acreable produce; extent to which drained; course of cropping, &c., 14136–14174.

Statement of cultivating one acre of best stiff clay (or wheat and bean) land upon the four-course system, also of oats and produce, 14174——Statement of the expense of cultivating one acre of the same land under the three-course system and probable returns, 14174——Expense of cultivating one acre of inferior clay land without any charge for rent, 14174——Expense of cultivating one acre of first rate turnip and barley land, and the probable produce of the four crops; viz., turnip, barley, clover and wheat, 14174——Total amount of expense of cultivating one acre (upon the four-course system) of first-rate barley land and produce, 14174——Expense of cultivating one acre of inferior turnip land for four years, 14174——Total expense of cultivating one acre of inferior turnip and barley land for four successive years, 14174——Flocks of sheep have increased upon the best land, but have diminished in quantity, and are taken by agistment on the poor lands, 14175–14178.

Evidence upon the price of corn and the amount charged for poor-rate and tithe in witness's statements, 14183–14211——Wheat at 5*s.* a bushel would annihilate rent altogether on poor land and reduce it 50 per cent. on good land, 14212——Rate of wages which are paid with reference to maintenance, and not with reference to the price of corn, 14213–14215——Labourers are not well off in Buckinghamshire: more are employed now in consequence of public works, 14218, 14219——Poor Law Bill has worked well with the idle and profligate, 14220–14225——Workhouses contemplated under the Act, 14227, 14228——Poor Law Bill could not have been carried into effect but for public works; the low price of provisions and manufacturing prosperity, 14229, 14230——Workhouses under Mr. Gilbert's Act were badly managed; men with wives were generally not received, but lived in cottages, 14231–14235——Poor Law Bill is becoming a favourite measure where sufficient sympathy shown by the guardians, particularly as regards the aged and infirm, 14236–14251.

Cramp, John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Resident at Garling, in the Isle of Thanet, 9478——Soil of the Isle of Thanet is light and easily cultivated, 9481, 9482——The last three harvests have been favourable, 9483——Extent of wheat and barley crops of 1833 and 1834, 9483–9485——Farmers farm their own estates; they must have been losers since 1833, 9486, 9487——Price of barley not remunerating in 1834; prices have been higher in 1835, 9488, 9489——Price of wheat in Canterbury market 3*l.* 3*s.*, which is not enough, 9490–9493——Average price ought to be 64*s.*, 9494——Comparative quality of Isle of Thanet wheat with that of other parishes in Kent, 9495, 9496——Expenses of cultivation have not been reduced equally with the depreciation in the value of crops, 9501——Labourers generally were better off with high wages and high prices; steady labourers affixed to a farm were never better off than at present, 9503–9510——Poor Law Bill will reduce rates where parishes have been previously neglected, 9511–9515——Opinion that the farmer would benefit by higher prices caused by extended circulation, 9516–9518——Local taxes are fixed; rate of them, 9519–9524——Expense of collecting tithe in kind, 9525, 9526, 9528, 9529——Statement showing the means of arriving at a fair and just commutative value of tithe upon any given value of produce, the quantity of produce being accurately estimated, 9527——Advantage to the farmer of a commutation of tithe, instead of its being taken in kind, 9530–9533——Objections to the proposed tithe bill; seven years previous average should not form the basis; impossible to commute in perpetuity; power of revision should be given; high cultivation from extra capital should not be charged extra; no objection to seven years for revision; the measure should be voluntary and not compulsory; a receiver should be appointed, 9534–9559.

Rents have been reduced in many instances; landlords have shown a disposition to meet their tenants, 9560–9562——Prospect of crops in the Isle of Thanet very fair, but from Dover to Canterbury the prospect is very bad, 9563——There is a diminished quantity of wheat sown, but not materially, in the eastern division of Kent, 9564——Manner in which a corn rent could be fixed for commutation of different descriptions of produce, 9565–9574——Repeal of the malt duty would benefit the farmer, particularly as regards the increased demand for barley, 9575, 9576——Deficiency from the repeal of the malt tax to be made up by a tax on beer and on funded property, new buildings and houses with land, 9577, 9578——Property tax should not be substituted, 9579——If there cannot be a repeal there should be no reduction, 9580——Emigration not advantageous; there are not more people than necessary if employment could be found for them, 9583–9588——Poor Law Bill will cause labour to circulate more freely, 9589–9591.

Credit. Effect of contracting the currency on credit, *Boniface* 13270–13275——Floating credit is contracted in a greater proportion now than during the Bank Restriction Act, *Burgess* 15944, 15945.

See also *Agricultural Distress*, 5. *Bank of England Notes. Banks, Country*, 2. *Loans.*

Creditors. Creditors mortgagees, and landlords will be placed in a condition of safety by lowering the standard of value, *Spooner* 15789–15793.

See also *Currency.*

Crime. Increase of, within the last three or four years over twenty years ago, in Surrey attributed to the people working together in gravel pits and stone pits, *Smallpiece* 3093, 3094——Very little crime committed in the neighbourhood of Oswestry, Shropshire, except a few petty larcenies, *Bickerton* 8798.

Cropping. Course of cropping adopted, [In England and Wales]—In Bedfordshire, *Bennett* 8376——In Buckinghamshire, *Brickwell* 402–407; *Rolfe* 1360; *Cortis* 1772, 1808, 1900——In Essex, *Kemp* 2040–2042, 2091, 2092; *Babbs* 3216–3239, 3256, 3257, 3261 2363–4108; *Tillyer* 4193——In Glamorganshire, *David* 4453——In Gloucestershire, *Hall* 4904–4916; *Crowther* 12786——In Leicestershire, *Ellis* 10854——In Lincoln, *Atkinson* 5826–5828——In Middlesex, *Sherborn* 4107——In Northumberland, *Langhorn* 7723——In Suffolk, *Cooper* 5646–5648——In Sussex, *Goodman* 10999, 11083——In Warwickshire, *Umbers* 8456——[In Ireland.]—In Connaught, *Clarke* 13849–13851——In Kildare, *Shawe* 14265, 14273–14276——[In Scotland.]—In Aberdeenshire, *Walker* 10516–10520——In Dumfries, *Church* 13420——In Haddingtonshire, *Hope* 9663–9665; *Brodie* 10271–10286——In Kincardineshire, *Robertson* 13753–13759——In Perthshire, *Oliphant* 11130, 11131; *Smith* 15029–15037——In Roxburgh, *M'Dougal* 14529.

Soils on which the order of crops between potatoes and wheat are used, *Jacob* 68, 69——It is very extensive and gradually increasing; it is generally in the north, and partially in the west of England, *Jacob* 71, 72——If too much of one description of crop is attempted to be grown there will be less grown in the course of time, *Cortis* 1808——Some farmers adopt the plan of stealing a crop, but it does not answer, *Cortis* 1900——Land has been cropped harder in Essex than it used to be, *Babbs* 3239——English farmers crop their land too hard; they do not embrace a sufficient grass course, or feeding cattle or sheep, *Robertson* 13812–13819——The rotation of cropping pursued on land within fifteen miles of London, could not be done without London manure, *Sherborn* 4107, 4108——Doubts about the beneficial effect from adopting a four-course shift instead of five, *Iles* 7480——Particulars as to the system of cropping upon a six or nine years' course, *Brown* 12157–12161——Course of husbandry under a six, nine, and twelve years' course, *Brown* 12357, 12358——Better price than other produce; caused crops of wheat to be forced, *Sherborn* 4022.

Cropping—continued.

Cropping in Connaught. In Connaught, land hard cropped for oats and then allowed to go waste till it recovers itself, and in three years is covered with a beautiful short herbage, *Clarke* 13851, 13852.

See also *Clay Lands*, 7. *Five-course Husbandry. Harvests. Leases.*

Crops. See *Agricultural Distress*, 6. *Harvests. Price of Corn*, 3.

Crows. See *Carrick, District of.*

Crowther, William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Farmer at Somerville Aston, Gloucester, 12768, 12769——Farming 1000 acres there, 400 in Warwickshire and 500 in Worcestershire; description of soil, 12770–12775——Clay land has been farmed to a profit within the last three years, from the great crops, 12777, 12778, 12801–12803, 12842——Acreable produce, 12779, 12835–12840——Under-draining furrows is done at witness's expense, 12780, 12781——Witness's rent, according to his own arrangement, will rise 200 *l.* a year when wheat gets up to 60 *s.*, 12782–18785——Course of cropping, 12786——Five horses necessary for ploughing, the lands lying high and running on a ridge, 12787——Wages have been increased, provisions being dearer, 12792, 12793——Poors' rates very light; the whole parish in witness's occupation, and there are no men out of employment, 12794–12798.

Light lands can be farmed at a profit; light land farmers have not been injured at all, 12804——Reduction of tithe in the parish of Stone, near Kidderminster, 12804, 12805——Necessity for a commutation of tithe, particularly in cases where tithes are valued annually, and thereby become a tax on a man's brains as well as his pocket, 12806–12811——Where farmers have not had to pay extravagantly high rents they have been doing pretty well; those who have been obliged to do so are poor, 12812–12814——Increase in produce has in some measure made up for low price of wheat, 12815——Profits not calculated upon wheat only, but on stock and everything, 12816——With an average crop, wheat will not pay at 40 *s.*, 12820–12822——High price of wool caused by the extraordinary goodness of trade, 12843–12855.

Loss in witness's neighbourhood by the rot; rise in the price of wool did not follow so quickly as expected; price of mutton fell during the rot, as all the sheep went to market, 12861–12875——Both lean and fat stock are scarce at present; buying and selling price of sheep, 12876–12881, 13008–13010——Clip of wool different on different sheep, 12882, 12890——Witness's barley crops in Worcestershire have been good, 12891–12896, 12914–12918——If the malt tax taken off, witness would grow less wheat and more barley, 12898–12899——By having the whole parish, witness has the advantage in the management of his labourers, 12921–12929——Farmers as well off as twenty years ago where they have not had to pay extravagant rents, 12920–12937——Transition from war to peace and the resumption of cash payments lowered the price of corn, 12938–12942——State of farmers depends on the disposition of the landlord and the price of corn, 12943–12952——Petitions to Parliament do harm in inducing farmers to look to the legislature for that assistance that their own industry and frugality ought to supply, 12953–12956.

With present prices of produce generally farmers need not be in distress, 12957, 12958——Farms in the neighbourhood of towns are advantageous, and more rent is paid for them, 12662–12965——As much corn in the hands of farmers as three years ago, 12966–12968——Light land more beneficial than clay lands, though they are as well as three years ago, 12976–12980——Farmers in Gloucestershire and Warwickshire, with wheat at present prices, are not in distress, 12982–12990——High amount of county-rates; opinion in favour of Mr. Hume's proposition, that they should be managed by a board, 12992–12999——If half the malt duty taken off, farmers could grow as much barley as would meet the increased demand, 13000–13003——Reduction of the malt duty would benefit the farming interest, but it would be farmers on barley soils who want it least, 13004, 13005——Breeding flocks are beginning to recover the effects of the rot, 13006.

Scarcity now is from the consumption of mutton, but sheep have not been so fat, from the scarcity of turnips, 13007——Reduction of about half the rent at Somerville Aston, from flax not being now allowed to be grown, which it was formerly, 13016, 13017——Rents paid by witness on his different farms, 13024——Witness's farm at Somerville Aston would let at the same rent, or more; witness considers the rise of 200 *l.* a year with wheat at 7 *s.* 6 *d.* a bushel is a fair rent, 13025–13030——Farmers have no reason to complain with wheat at 60 *s.*, 13031–13033——Corn laws are bad, but could not now be repealed without great danger, 13034——Opinion in favour of a fixed duty of from 12 *s.* to 15 *s.* a quarter, but which, or half of which could not be maintained in times of scarcity, 13035–13050.

(Second Examination.) Extent of holding in Warwickshire and description of land, 13293–13295——Profits as good now as three years ago on clay land, with wheat at 60 *s.*, 13298, 13299——Particulars as to a farmer of cold clay land in Warwickshire, who is making money, 13300–13311——Farmers in Warwickshire are not in difficulties, though they are not so well off as six or seven years ago, 13312, 13313——Many of the farmers in Worcestershire and Gloucestershire who have signed petitions, keep two or three hunters and live luxuriously, 13316——Particulars as to races run on witness's land; the attendance of farmers thereat; and the breeding horses for the purpose, 13317–13339——Land broken up during witness's first lease and planted with flax, but during his second lease he has laid much down, 13343, 13344——Particulars as to the witness's son's carpet manufactory in America,

Crowther, William. (Analysis of his Evidence, Second Examination)—*continued.*

America, which is prosperous; but the whole profits have been laid out in the trade, 13345–13353——Examination upon the capital invested and profits made by witness during the last thirty years; money was made fast when wheat was 15*s.* to 20*s.* a bushel, but within the last ten years profits have been great from the land returning the capital laid out upon it in improvements, 13354–13367——Estimate of the receipt and expenditure of an acre of heavy clay land for one course of crops, taking wheat at 5*s.* a bushel and other grain in proportion, 13368–13375——Nature of the soil; rent paid and average produce in wheat and oats, 13376–13387.

CULTIVATION:

I. *Deteriorated Cultivation or stationary and causes.*

II. *Improved Cultivation.*
1. *In England.*
2. *In Ireland.*
3. *In Scotland.*

III. *Expense of Cultivation.*
1. *Generally.*
2. *Statements laid before the Committee.*
i. *England and Wales.*
ii. *Scotland.*

1. *Deteriorated or stationary Cultivation and causes.*

Deterioration in cultivation from the poverty of the farmers, occasioned by the low price of wheat; In Buckinghamshire, *Brickwell* 358, 359; *Rolfe* 1349-1351; *Cortis* 1773-1777; *Morton* 3685-3687——In Cambridgeshire, *Thurnall* 2395–2399——In Middlesex, *Sherborn* 4016, 4017; *Tillyer* 4168–4170——In Suffolk, *Cooper* 5618, 5695——In Warwickshire, *Umbers* 8454, 8455——Greater quantity of land declining than improving in value, *Scott* 5187–5189——Remains stationary; at Denham, Bucks, *Morton* 3721——At Bedfont, Middlesex, *Sherborn* 4088——At Harmondsworth, Middlesex, *Tillyer* 4191.

II. *Improved Cultivation.*

1. *In England.*

Not much improvement from our forefathers in the cultivation of land, *Morton* 3777——Extent to which witness's system has been followed in Scotland, England and Ireland, *Smith* 15073–15075——Good lands are improving in cultivation, *Jacob* 55, 89, 90, 259——*Sanders* 6122——Land producing twenty bushels per acre need not be thrown out of cultivation of wheat, if rents are lower and there is fresh capital laid out on them in draining and manuring, which would increase the produce, *Sanders* 6838-6844——The cultivation in the neighbourhood of Bedfont is a description of garden farming; a forced cultivation by the expenditure of large capital, *Sherborn* 4036-4039——Improvements in cultivation from fine seasons in Essex, *Page* 2676, 2677, 2805-2812; *Smallpiece* 2861–2863——Value of improvements made on witness's estate in Gloucestershire, *Hall* 4949——Improvement of a certain district in Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire has continued, *Sanders* 6035——Cultivation has improved in Hampshire, under men of capital, *Stares* 11636, 11637.

2. *In Ireland.*

Nature of the improvements that have taken place in Ireland of late years, *Shawe* 14298——Extent of pains taken by farmers in Ireland in clearing and weeding their land *Brassington* 14692–14706.

3. *In Scotland.*

Effect of low prices has been to stimulate improvements on the part of the tenantry in Scotland, *Smith* 15147-15151——Improvements that have been going on in Aberdeenshire for the last four or five years have caused the country to be in a higher state of cultivation, *Walker* 10532, 10534——It is increasing in Ayrshire, and there is a disposition to cultivate waste lands, *Brown* 12369–12373——Farming has been improving in Haddingtonshire, under good management, for the last four years, *Hope* 9705–9711——Great improvements have taken place in Kincardine since 1824; of what they consist, *Robertson* 13603–13607——Capital of landowners has been expended in improvements in Kincardine; great improvements have been done by the tenants in Scotland, *Robertson* 13666, 13667——Consisting of draining and inclosing in Kinross, Perth and Kincardine; were paid for jointly by landlord and tenant, *Menzies* 13993–13995.

Improvements in cultivation of lands in East Lothian in the last thirty years, *Hope* 9812–9814——Improvements in draining and liming in East Lothian that have taken place since 1793, *Hope* 9885–9897, 9978——As regards the mere expense of cultivation, witness's improvements have repaid themselves, *Smith* 15070–15071——Improvements in Perthshire have been principally at the expense of the tenant; some landlords assist draining, *Smith* 15076, 15077——In some cases improvements have been in consequence of lowering the rent, in other cases they have preceded it; they are still continuing, and add to the productive power of the country, *Smith* 15081–15083

CULTIVATION:—II. *Improved Cultivation.*

3. *In Scotland—continued.*

——In Roxburgh are carried on with great spirit, generally at the expense of the tenant, the landlord sometimes assisting, *M'Dougal* 14514, 14515.

III. *Expense of Cultivation.*

1. *Generally.*

Expense of cultivation is diminishing, but very slowly, *Sanders* 6124——Expense of cultivation quite as heavy now as formerly, but the land is more productive, *Iles* 7383, 7384——Expenses of cultivation have not been reduced equally with the depreciation in the value of crops, *Cramp* 9501——Capital and stock are necessary for profitable farming, *Fison* 12691, 12692——Impossible to farm well with only grain; necessity for sheep and lambs, *Church* 13488–13491——Expenses of, depend very much on the nature of the soil, *Hall* 4982–4986——It is unfair to take the expenses of cultivation upon any one crop, *Parker* 12528–12535——Cost of cultivating wheat crops considerably less in Scotland than in England, *Robertson* 13816——Cost of cultivating an acre of wheat in Ireland is less than flax; mode adopted, *Blacker* 15405——Farming at a loss attributed to the altered value of money, *Freeland* 14799–14800——Cost of cultivation per acre, showing profit or loss in Bucks, *Brickwell* 313–316, 600–604——In Middlesex, *Tillyer* 4219, 4220——In Warwickshire, *Umbers* 8459, 8462–8464——In Haddingtonshire, Scotland, *Hope* 9700–9704, 9815–9820; *Brodie* 10291–10293——Statement given in in 1833 of the expense per acre of cultivating an acre of fallow wheat at Normanton not quite correct, *Ellis* 10852.

2. *Statements laid before the Committee.*

i. *England and Wales.*

Estimate of expense of cultivation, and also of produce on an acre of strong land in Bedfordshire, *Bennett* 8237–8241——Statement of the expenses of cultivating an acre of, in the Vale of Bucks on the four-course system: estimated value of produce according to present prices, rent 24*s.* tithe 6*s.* per acre, *Brickwell* 402——Miscellaneous notes on labour rotations, rent, produce, &c., *Robertson* 13826——Statement of cultivating one acre of best stiff clay, in Bucks (or wheat and bean land) upon the four-course system; also of oats and produce, *Cox* 14174——Statement of the expense of cultivating one acre of the same land under the three-course system, and probable returns, *Cox* 14174.

Expense of cultivating one acre of inferior clay land, without any charge for rent, *Cox* 14174——Expense of cultivating one acre of first-rate turnip and barley land, and the probable produce of the four crops, viz., turnip, barley, clover and wheat, *Cox* 14174——Total amount of expense of cultivating one acre (upon the four-course system) of first-rate barley land, and produce, *Cox* 14174——Expense of cultivating one acre of inferior turnip land for four years, *Cox* 14174——Total expense of cultivating one acre of inferior turnip and barley land for four successive years, *Cox* 14174——Estimate of the expense of cultivating an acre of arable land in Beaconsfield, Bucks, for four years, at present prices, and at prices that would be remunerating, *Rolfe* 1422.

Statement of the comparative expenses attending cultivation, 1790, 1813, 1835, on a farm in Glamorganshire, *David* 4279–4283——Annual expenses of cultivating 650 acres of land, 450 arable and 200 pasture, 1835, 1790, *David* 4283——Cost of cultivation of witness's farm in Somersetshire from 1780–1790, with wheat at 48*s.* per quarter, compared with 1835, wheat being 40*s.*, *Stares* 11519–11522——Estimate of the returns and expenses of an acre of heavy clay land in the county of Sussex for a period of four years, and examination thereon, *Boniface* 13827–13833——Estimate of the receipt and expenditure of an acre of heavy clay land in Warwickshire, for one course of crops, taking wheat at 5*s.* a bushel, and other grain in proportion, *Crowther* 13368–13375.

ii. *Scotland.*

Statement of expense of cultivation shown by the rotation followed on a farm consisting of 220 acres of arable land situated twelve miles from a sea-port town in Aberdeenshire, and worked upon the five-course system, and examination thereon, *Walker* 10636–10643——Cost of working an acre of light land in Aberdeenshire, including interest of capital, *Robertson* 13826——Average annual expenses on a farm in Berwickshire, measuring 420 imperial acres, of which about two-thirds is adapted for turnip husbandry, and about one-third wheat land, all in tillage, rent 920*l.*, *Bell* 11842–11846——Statement showing the average annual expenditure for a farm in the county of Berwick, and the returns and profit on the said farm for crop and year 1835, *Bell* 12381——State of the expenditure and produce of a farm of 253 imperial acres on Kincardineshire coast-side, or clay district, with particulars as to the soil and locality, *Robertson* 13760——Statement of the expense of cultivating a farm in Linlithgow and amount of produce, showing the sum left for rent and profit, *Oliphant* 11138–11152——Note of rent and expenses on the farms of Lawhead and Truprain, *Howden* 9983, 9984.

See also *Agricultural Labourers*, 2. *Agriculture. Bagshot Heath. Bone Manure. Clay Lands*, 1, 2, 5. *Cropping. Farming Expenses. Farms*, 3. *Fixed Duty*, 4. *Labour. Flax. Four-course Husbandry. Grass Lands*, 1. *Price of Corn*, 6. *Produce of Corn. Profit and Loss. Rent*, 1, 7. *Scotch Banking System. Scotch Husbandry. Taxation*, 2. *Tithes. Twenty-one day Bills. Wold Land.*

CURRENCY:

1. *Effect of alterations in the Currency at different periods.*
2. *Proposed alterations in the Currency.*
3. *How far Agricultural Distress and low prices caused by alterations in the Currency.*
4. *Effects of causing a rise in prices by an action on the Currency.*

1. *Effect of alterations in the Currency at different periods.*

Effect of alterations in the currency in different years from 1815, *Thurnall* 2533–2545——From 1697, *Sanders* 6692–6718——Effect of changes in the currency in raising prices during the war and reducing them afterwards, *Hope* 9849–9855——Examination on, and panic of, 1825, *David* 4475–4494——Increased circulation is not necessary for increased population; the increase of trade, manufactures and population is the effect of increased wealth, *Sanders* 7090–7098——Effect of the Bank Restriction Act in 1797, and the resumption of cash payments in 1819, in causing a rise and fall of prices subsequently to those periods, *Bell* 11966–11980; *Brown* 12311–12318——Currency is very much more contracted than during the Bank Restriction Act, *Burgess* 15944, 15945——The amount of currency, taking all descriptions into account, is much less now than in 1815, *Burgess* 15954–15957——Per centage difference in the value between paper and gold, extract from Mr. Thomson's speech in 1811, Lord *Ashburton* 17069–17074——Evidence upon the per centage depreciation of the currency in 1811 and subsequently to the end of the war, with weight to be attached to Mr. Henry Thomson's opinions thereon, Lord *Ashburton* 17503–17510.

2. *Proposed alterations in the Currency.*

Proposed alteration of the currency, *Spooner* 15652-15673——It would not be an act of injustice now to place the currency on a more extended basis; there have been continual tamperings with the currency since 1815, *Spooner* 15680–15685——Alteration of currency would not affect the exports of the country, *Spooner* 15715, 15716——Farmers prefer their present prices and prospects to any alteration of the currency, *Robertson* 13731–13737——There is no more want of money in England than in Scotland; sovereigns are not used for commercial purposes in Scotland, *Robertson* 13743–13748——Reducing the tithes, poors' rates and labour to what they were from 1780–1790, and granting a total repeal of the malt tax, would be better than altering the currency, *Stares* 11668, 11669——Effect of depreciating the currency one-half on the prices of commodities here and in foreign countries, *Muntz*, 16562–16581.

3. *How far Agricultural Distress, and low prices caused by alterations in the Currency.*

Agricultural distress occasioned by low prices, caused by alteration of the currency, *Houghton* 1225–1227, 1289–1309; *David* 4442, 4443; *Howard* 5408–5411; *Umbers* 8599, 8600——Caused by contraction of the currency, *Thurnall* 2268, 2269, 2512–2516; *David* 4337, 4484, 4485; *Langhorn* 7565; *Calthrop* 7933–7941; *Boniface* 13270–13275——Contraction of the circulating medium causes more property to be thrown upon the market, which depresses prices, *Umbers* 8523–8525, 8573——Nothing in the currency to cause the present low price of wheat, *Sanders* 6070, 6299, 6300——Nothing in the currency to cause a higher price of other articles sold at Liverpool as compared with wheat *Sanders* 6071——Nothing in the state of the currency now that affects agriculturists, unless those under engagements contracted before 1819, *Sanders* 6268, 6969.

4. *Effects of causing a rise in prices by an action on the Currency.*

Advantage of a rise of prices caused by an action on the currency, *Thurnall* 2565, 2566; *David* 4342–4346, 4419; *Howard* 5539–5547; *Cooper* 5712–5726; *Umbers* 8573, 8588, 8589; *Langhorn* 8978–8997, 9036–9042; *Cramp* 9516–9518; *Walker* 10590, 10591; *Freeland* 14824–14837——An alteration of, would be productive of greater benefit than a repeal of the malt duty, *Ellman* 4761, 4762——An extension of currency proposed as a means of relief; it would increase the price of corn, although the farmer's outgoings would be increased, *Cooper* 5712–5726——Creditors would lose by a depreciated currency, but that loss would be a gain, inasmuch as it would prevent their losing the whole of their property, *Langhorn* 9026–9030——Raising the price of wheat by an alteration of the currency would not be prejudicial to the manufacturing interest, *Stares* 11723–11728——No alteration of the currency, with a view to raising prices, would be of the slightest advantage to agriculture, considered abstractedly from all other interests, *Sanders* 6128–6133, 6301.

A sound increase in the currency would relieve the distress, *Freeland* 14916–14918——Evils of an increase of prices caused by an action of the currency, *Houghton* 1121–1127, 1136, 1137; *Sanders* 6128–6133——Would not be permanent, *Houghton* 1205–1207, 1310–1324, 1337; *Sanders* 7152——Depreciation of the currency would not affect the labourer; wages of labour are too high, *Langhorn* 9015–9018——Labourers are at present better off from there being an increased circulation, and not from the demand for labour from public works, *Spooner* 15811–15814——Rise in price from alteration of currency would not cause a permanent increase in the demand for labour, Earl *Radnor* 16848, 16849——Alteration of currency would make the condition of labourers worse, as wages would not be increased in the same ratio as provisions, Earl *Radnor* 16851–16853

Currency:—Effects of causing a rise in prices by an action on the Currency—continued.

Value of gold and silver coined at His Majesty's Mint in each of the six years from 1830 to 1835, *App. II., p.* 288.

See also *Agricultural Distress*, 5, 6. *Agricultural Prosperity. America. Austria. Bank of England Notes. Bank Notes, Country. Bank Restriction Act. Banks, Country*, 2. *Bills of Exchange. Branch Banks. Bullion. Cash Payments. Commercial Distress. Commercial and Manufacturing Interests. Contracts. Credits. Cultivation, III.* 1. *Debtors. Distress. Five-pound Notes. Fixed Engagements. France. Gold. Gold Standard. Gold and Silver Standard. Horner*, Mr. *Irish Banking System. Joint Stock Banks. Landlords*, 1. *Manufacturing Interests. Mortgages. Newspapers. One-pound Notes. Paper Currency. Precious Metals. Price of Corn*, 1, 6, 10, 11. *Productive Classes. Rent*, 3, 6. *Ricardo*, Mr. *Russia. Savings Banks. Scotch Banking System. Scotch One-pound Notes. Servants. Silver Standard. Spain. Standard of Value. Steam Navigation. Sweden. Taxation. Wages*, 3. *War*, 2, 3.

D.

Daly, Mr. *Bowes.* Number of years' produce at which an estate of the late Mr. Bowes Daly sold, *Shawe* 14295–14297.

Dantzic. See *Biscuits. Bonded Corn*, 3. *Foreign Corn. Freight. Hamburg.*

Dantzic Wheat. No Essex wheat ever obtained so high a price as Dantzic wheat, *Babbs* 3422——Price of wheat at Dantzic will always be something above the expense of transit below the price in England, *Hodgson* 6586–6589——Supposed price at which wheat would be imported from Dantzic under a fixed duty, *Hodgson* 6661, 6662——The prices of wheat at Dantzic very low at the present time, *Umbers* 8534——At how much less price corn may be kept in warehouse at Dantzic than here, *Ruding* 17130–17132, 17185.——Prices of wheat and barley at Dantzic during the years 1825 to 1835, *App. III. p.* 615.

David, Evan. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Resides at Rhadyr Court, Glamorganshire, 4269——Occupies 730 acres, 4271——Great distress among farmers; capital of farmers been disappearing rapidly in the last fifteen years 4273–4276——Reduction of price of land, 4277, 4278——Statement of the comparative expenses attending cultivation in 1790, 1813, 1835, on a farm in Glamorganshire, 4279–4283——Annual expenses of cultivating 650 acres of land, 450 arable, and 200 pasture, 1835, 1790——Cause of the high price of wool, from great losses experienced in sheep; flocks not generally recovered the loss, 4292——Price of wool owing to the rot among sheep, 4295——Price of meat and wool has risen from scarcity, 4300——Of malt, from removal of beer tax, 4300——Witness of opinion that increased growth of wheat has not kept pace with increased population, 4306.

Comparative statement of corn grown in several parishes in the county of Glamorgan at various periods, showing a reduction in the quantity grown, 4307——Large importations of Irish produce, causes of low prices, 4309–4314——Comparative amount of poor-rate paid by manufacturers and agriculturists, showing excess paid by the latter, 4322–4327——Reasons why the system of bonding corn highly injurious to the British growers of corn, 4328–4332——Construction of currency, cause of distress in 1820–1822, 4337——Prices improved in 1825 and 1826, owing to an increased issue of notes, 4338, 4339——Increased facility of accommodation to farmers, owing to joint stock banks, 4343——Witness decidedly of opinion that an increased circulation of one-pound notes would increase the prosperity of the farmer, 4346.

Labourers better off now than formerly in witness's neighbourhood, 4347——Tenant farmers have of late years lost a great portion of their capital, 4355——Wages have latterly increased, owing to demand from iron-works for labour, 4379——Evidence as to witness's propositions respecting liberating bonded corn when price below 50 *s.*; effects as to warehousing abroad, 4383–4396——Fixed duty on corn not so beneficial as the present system, 4399, 4400——Removal of all local burthens paid by witness would not enable witness to sell at present prices, 4401–4404——Effect of the employment of Irish labourers, 4409, 4410——Labourers in Glamorganshire better off, comparatively, than farmers, 4418–4422——Beneficial effects of raising the prices of produce by action on the currency, 4419–4421——Evidence as to causes of rise of price in wool, 4433, 4434——Evil effects of present currency on prices, 4442, 4443——No difficulty in getting advances from banks, with proper security, 4454, 4455——Witness's opinion, that a system of paper money might be introduced by joint stock banks with benefit to the country, 4459–4464.

Bills issued by joint stock banks contribute to the prosperity of manufactures; nature of manufactures gives a greater habit of accommodating that interest; there is difficulty in accommodating farmers, more particularly now their means have decreased, 4445–4447——Examination on currency and panic of 1825, 4475–4494——Reasons why savings banks are injurious, as they drain the rural districts of circulating medium, 4495——Advantageous to the country, if the deposits of savings banks were placed with local joint stock banks, 4497.

Dawson, Mr. Letter from him on the different modes of fattening cattle, *Blacker* 15500, *III. p.*

See also *Cattle*, 4.

Debentures. See *Bonded Corn*, 5.

Debt, National. It should be made to pay some of the local taxation, *Cooper*, 5721——Part of the national debt is a contract existing under particular circumstances, and should be rectified except as to such part as was contracted for under the present standard, Earl *Radnor* 16812–16815——Persons who had advanced money to the state previous to 1797, and received their interest in a depreciated currency, would have a right to their contracts being rectified, Earl *Radnor* 16816–16818——Difficulty of going through a revision of the contracts of the present and former holders of the national debt, Earl *Radnor* 16819–16823——Reduction of the national debt would be better than an alteration of the standard, or an issue of paper, Earl *Radnor* 16950–16955——Greater portion of the national debt was contracted in depreciated currency, Lord *Ashburton* 17666——Memorandum respecting the proceedings of Government as to the unfunded debt from the year 1815, *App. I. p.* 218.

See also *America. Contracts. Gold Standard.*

Debtors. Evils inflicted on the debtor by the change of currency have not terminated, *Spooner* 15857——Return to gold payments acted as a fraud upon debtors, *Muntz* 16686–16689——Extent to which debtors have been losers by not being allowed, as formerly, to pay in whatever metal was the cheapest, Lord *Ashburton* 17631–17633, 17647–17655, 17662, 17714–17735.

See also *Cash Payments. Silver Standard.*

Deeping Fen. No wheat grown there ten years ago, *Sanders* 6829——Great advantages to agriculture from the draining of it, *Calthorp* 7990–7998.

Deficient Crops. See *Agricultural Distress*, 1.

Demand and Supply. The supply is less equal to the demand of the population than it was 20 years ago, *Hodgson* 6461–6467——If the present corn laws maintained, and Irish production extended the increased produce of the British Isles, will keep pace with the population, and supply the demand at a steady and moderate price, *Sanders* 6951.

See also *Price of Corn. Raw Materials.*

Deposits. See *Banks, Country*, 1.

Depreciation of the Currency. See *Banks, Country*, 1, *Gold. Gold and Silver Standard. Landlords. Mortgages.*

Deteriorated Cultivation. See *Cultivation, I. Farms*, 2. *Population.*

Devon. Rate of land-tax there, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9136.

Discount. Bankers do not discount short bills under five per cent., *Houghton* 893.

See also *Joint Stock Banks. Loans.*

Distillers. See *Irish Malt. Malt Duty*, 5, 6.

Distilleries. Quantity of wheat and of other grain consumed in the distilleries, specifying the amount of each for the last three years, *App. I. p.* 218.

Distress. Fluctuations in the currency, and diminution of the circulating medium, causes distress, *Haggard* 16238, 16239——Manner in which distress was caused by the operation of Mr. Peel's Bill of 1819, *Burgess* 15972–15981——Distress occasioned by the preparations for a return to cash payments, of which the Act of 1819 regulated the mode of proceeding, Lord *Ashburton* 17518–17529——Distress of both manufacturing and agricultural classes, 1819–1822——Caused by low prices consequent on Mr. Peel's Bill, Earl *Radnor* 16708–16711——In 1815 and 1816, and disturbances in consequence, *Muntz* 16381–16384——Improvement in 1817 and 1818 from suspending the payment in gold, and keeping more money in circulation, *Muntz* 16385-16393——Gradually increasing distress 1818 to 1823, which ended with the issue of 1*l.* notes in 1823, *Muntz* 16404–16409——Whether there was distress among those parties whose goods were excluded from the continental markets, Lord *Ashburton* 17018–17019.

See also *Agricultural Distress. Agricultural Labourers*, 2. *Cash Payments. Commercial Distress. Exchequer Bills. Manufacturing Districts. Manufacturing Interests. Paper Currency.*

Distress for Rent. See *Loans.*

Disturbances. Those in Huntingdonshire six years ago did not arise from the distress of the peasantry, *Bowyer* 3602, 3603.

See also *Distress.*

Dividends. See *Banks, Country*, 1. *Paper Currency.*

Down Land. Great deal of down land ploughed up during the war, which, at the present prices, would have been better to have remained as it was, *Stares* 11657–11663.
See also *Rot.*

Draining:
1. *Extent to which adopted.*
2. *Advantages of.*
3. *Expense per acre and proportion borne by the Landlord.*
4. *Different modes of Draining.*
5. *Advantages of Furrow-draining and expense.*
6. *Necessity for, in Ireland.*

1. *Extent to which adopted.*
Not so much draining and chalking going on in Bucks as formerly, for want of the means to pay for it, *Rolfe* 1357, 1358, 1473, 1474——Increasing improvements within the last three years in draining, liming and chalking in Essex, *Parker* 12410, 12411——Improvements by draining, particularly since the introduction of the drain plough in Kent, *Neave* 9341–9346——A good deal of draining has been done on clay lands in Lincolnshire, which has caused some improvement in the farmer's condition, *Iles* 7326–7330——It has not been so extensive as the system of bone husbandry, *Iles* 7514–7516——A great deal of draining has been performed in Forfar, Aberdeen and Kincardineshires, *Robertson* 13606——Drainings and other improvements in Kinrossshire, Perthshire and Kincardineshire are going on progressively and rapidly, *Menzies* 13988.

2. *Advantages of.*
It ought to precede all other improvements, *Bell* 11925——Advantages of, *Bennett* 8206–8210; *Umbers* 8562–8566; *Neave* 9436–9447; *Brodie* 10416–10419; *Hancock* 11424–11431——Improvements of land from, *Goodman* 10994–10996——Will make land more independent of seasons, but will not obviate the evils arising from bad seasons, *Page* 2833——It increases produce, and will repay if prices rise, *Sturge* 7264; *Umbers* 8562–8366; *Bickerton* 8859–8862——The difference between the loss if there was no draining, and the loss when the draining took place would be sufficient to pay for the draining, *Iles* 7392–7398——Improvements by draining took place principally from 1823–1825, which has increased produce but not paid a fair interest from the low prices of Corn, *Boniface* 13142–13147.

3. *Expense per acre, and proportion borne by the Landlord.*
Expense per acre, *Atkinson* 5978–5981; *Hope* 9919–9924; *Ellis* 10730–10735; *Oliphant* 11120–11123, 11134–11136; *Church* 13509–13511; *Smith* 15089–15090——Cost per yard for tile draining, *Robertson* 13826——Is an addition to the expense of cultivation however cheaply done, *Smallpiece* 3026–3029——Expense of draining varies according to the situation, *Iles* 7414——Done at the joint expense of landlord and tenant, *Iles* 7514–7516; *Bickerton* 8688, 8696; *Brodie* 10241–10267; *Ellis* 10730–10735; *Hancock* 11424–11431; *Robertson* 13626, 13627——Landlords have sometimes drained to prevent a reduction of rental, *Atkinson* 5968, 5969——Done at the expense of the farmer, *Neave* 9341–9346; *Crowther* 12780; *Freeland* 14792–14797——Sums laid out in draining with only the expectation of assistance from the landlord, *Howden* 10028–10032.

4. *Different modes of Draining.*
Particulars as to different modes of draining, *Atkinson* 5978–5981——Nature of the draining adopted by witness, *Neave* 9472–9476; *Goodman* 11047–11060; *Oliphant* 11120–11123, 11134–11136; *Bell* 11879–11881; *Smith* 14979–14983, 14986, 14987, 15211–15223——Mode of draining in Shropshire, *Pickerton* 8901–8904——Advantages of the Essex system of straw-draining, *Ellis* 10730–10735, 10749–10759——Piercing drainage would not do permanently in Lincolnshire, *Atkinson* 5986, 5987——Difference between chalk and turf-draining, *Goodman* 11047–11060——Evidence as to the use of stones and tiles, *Smith* 15211–15223——Particulars as to the mode of cross-draining adopted, and improvement in consequence, *Church* 13393–13411——Price of tiles, and number required for draining, *Brown* 12137–12145——Price of tiles for draining in Dumfries, *Church* 13518, 13519——Size of tiles used for cross-drains, *Church* 13520——A number of small tile-kilns save the distance of carriage, *Church* 13512, 13513——Extent of tile-draining, and advantages, *Bowyer* 3576–3584——Tile-draining in much more general use now than formerly in Lincolnshire, *Atkinson* 5851.

5. *Advantages of Furrow-draining and expense.*
Advantages of furrow-draining, *Brodie* 10241–10267, 10329–10335; *Walker* 10534–10547; *Oliphant* 11089–11092; *Bell* 12058–12062. Mode of furrow-draining, *Howden* 10056–10070; *Brown* 12106–12128——Expense per acre of furrow-draining, *Brodie* 10241–10267; *Walker* 10534–10547; *Bell* 12058–12062; *Brown* 12109–12128——Furrow-draining not advantageous on a moor with a close retentive subsoil, *M'Dougal* 14533–14539——Much deep draining has been done in the last twenty years, but within

679

DRAINING:— 5. *Advantages of Furrow-draining, and expense*—continued.

within the last three years furrow-draining has been used, for which allowance is intended to be made by the proprietor, *Hope* 9633–9636, 9781, 9782; *Howden* 9965–9970——Amount laid out in furrow-draining, which would not have been done had there been a lease, *Hope* 9902–9975.

6. *Necessity for, in Ireland.*

Is very much wanted in Ireland, *Clarke* 13887——The measure most conducive to the benefit of the tenantry of Ireland will be a general drainage, *Shawe* 14508.

See also *Bagshot Heath. Barley, III.* 2. *Chatmoss Clay Lands*, 1, 2, 8. *Cultivation*, II. 3. *Deeping Fen. Featherstone*, Mr. *Heath Land. Landlords*, 2. *Moss Land. Nene Outfal. Produce of Corn. Profit and Loss. Rent*, 1. *Rot*, 2. *Seasons. Subsoil. Ploughing Turnips.*

Draining Plough. Advantage of Pearson's plough for draining; expense per acre of its use, *Neave* 9452–9463——Application of the windlass to the draining plough has been tried in Nottinghamshire with effect, *Neave* 9469–9471.

See also *Draining.*

Drummond, Messrs. See *Agricultural Museum.*

Dry Land. Subsoil plough is decidedly applicable to dry land, *Smith* 15172–15175.

Dry Seasons. Are very beneficial to the wheat crops, *Sturge* 7262.

See also *Barley. Produce of Corn. Seasons. Spring of the Year.*

Drumlarrig Estate. Produce of this estate has nearly doubled since 1819, *Church* 13551.

Dumfriesshire. The upper part of Dumfriesshire much improved in the last ten years; it is cultivated in a very superior manner, *Church* 13549–13550.

Dunlop, Archibald. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Distiller at Wandsworth, lately from Scotland, 9146, 9147——High rate of duty injurious to the consumption of malt, showing by the quantity of malt brought to charge not having increased in proportion to the increased wealth and population of the country, 9149——If the duty reduced, so as not to afford a sufficient inducement to evade it, the increased consumption would be so great that the revenue would not sustain loss, 9149——Increased revenue from spirits from increased consumption after reduction of duty, 9149——Reduction of 5 *l.* or 10 *l.* on the duty would not be sufficient to prevent evasion, 9150, 9151——If reduced to 8 *l.* a quarter the duty would not be evaded, and the consumption would be greatly increased, 9151–9155.

Barley half malted is exposed for public sale in Mark Lane; evasion of the duty takes place in every stage of the process, 9155–9160——Distillers and brewers would use more malt than they do if the duty reduced to 1 *s.* a bushel, 9161–9164——Malting refines, but does not add to the quantity or increase the strength, 9165, 9166, 9172, 9175, 9183——Brewers make beer from barley mixed with malt; brewers' beer refused by some farming labourers in Scotland, 9167——There is no place where beer of worse quality goes into consumption than in London; the observation applies to the retailers, and not to the great porter brewers, 9168, 9169——Alteration in the floor charge to maltsters made in 1828 may be injurious when the process hurried by the state of temperature, 9176–9179——There is not more spirit obtained from malt than barley, it is merely a question of flavour, 9180–9182——Men drinking beer made from malt would be fatter than those drinking beer made from unmalted corn, 9185.

Whisky made from malt only is preferred from its quality, and not from its strength, 9187–9189——Beer made from malt alone is better than that made from malt and barley, 9190——Increased consumption of malt in Scotland arose from reducing the duty, which also put an end to smuggling; reducing the duty in England would have the same effect on consumption, and put an end to smuggling foreign spirits, 9190–9193, 9202——A practice of distilling and brewing from wheat malt has arisen lately; there is a considerably greater produce from a quarter of wheat malted than from a quarter of barley, 9195–9198——Spirits made from malt only come from Scotland; their consumption in families is rapidly increasing, 9199–9201——Extent of smuggling of foreign spirits in England, 9202——Consumption of hops has doubled within the last thirty years, while malt has remained stationary, 9202.

Dunlop Cheese. Price of it is not much below the average price of the last nineteen years, *Brown* 12291–12205.

Dutch Barley. Some barley from Holland malts well, *Bowyer* 3570.

Duty on Corn. See *Corn Laws. Fixed Duty.*

E.

East India Failures. See *Failures.*

Edinburgh. Return of land tax for the city of Edinburgh 1834–35; intention of assimilating the practices of England and Scotland with regard to the collection of land tax, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9064.

Education. Condition and morals of the labourer very much improved by the progress of education, *Hall* 4978–4990——State of, Gloucestershire, *Hall* 5020–5022——Progress of education is chiefly confined to young farmers, in Shropshire, *Bickerton* 8804——Mode of education adopted by witness for his own sons, *Howden* 10190–10197.

Eleven year rotation. Description of an eleven year rotation, *Robertson* 13759.

Ellis, John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Farmer, coal and lime merchant at Beaumont Lays, near Leicester, 10696–10698——Farmers rather better off than in 1833, 10700——Use of lime increased on clay lands, 10700–10703——Nothing in the way of direct legislation that will benefit the farmer, 10706——Advantage if the Irish could be put in a situation to consume more of their own produce, 10707——Abundant harvests in Leicestershire have for the last two or three years made up for deficiency of price, 10709–10712——Greater breadth of wheat sown and increased acreable produce, a cause of low prices, 10713, 10714——The late rise attributed to the supposition that there was less sown, and to the prosperity of the country having increased speculation, 10715, 10716——More of all descriptions of spring corn will be sown this year, 10717, 10718——Price of other agricultural produce, than corn, has been fair, 10719.

Agricultural interest not worse off than two years ago, 10720——Rents on poor soils not sufficiently reduced; an adjustment between landlord and tenant better than parliamentary interference, 10721–10724——More lime and other manure used in the neighbourhood of Leicester than twenty-five years ago, 10725, 10726——Consumption of wheaten bread has not decreased; increased use of potatoes has not been greater than increased population, 10727–10729——Increase of draining; Essex system adopted; expense per acre, which is borne between landlord and tenant, 10730–10735——Gain upon arable land in the last two years from extraordinary crops, 10741——Increased rent on witness's farm since 1826, 10747, 10748——Further advantages of the Essex system of straw-draining adopted in Leicestershire, 10749–10759.

Advantage to witness of living near the town of Leicester, 10760, 10761, 10765–10768——Average produce per acre in Leicester and the kingdom generally, 10762, 10763——Advantage of a railroad in the neighbourhood, as regards reducing the expense of conveyance of lime, 10769–10772——Clay-land farmers in bad condition, particularly where they have not drained, 10773–10777——Landlords find the advantage of assisting in the expense of draining, 10778–10781——Where clay farmers have been prosperous, it has been from extraordinary seasons, 10776, 10782, 10783——The rot increased the price of sheep and benefited those farmers with drained lands, 10784–10791——In Leicestershire the rot has just been recovered, 10792–10794——Farmers on poor soils in Leicestershire are worse off than twenty years ago, 10795, 10796——Mainly attributed to the transition from war to peace, 10797–10802.

Alteration in the currency affected prices between 1820 and 1825, 10806–10810——Farmers thirty per cent. worse off now than 1826 from altered currency, which has not been sufficiently met by landlords, 10811–10813——Some poor land will not bear any rent with wheat at 40*s.* a quarter, 10814–10817——Farming tradesmen have not reduced prices; they complain of want of work, 10818–10821——Shopkeepers in provincial towns complain of want of custom from farmers, 10822, 10823——Wheat could not be grown at 50*s.* with ordinary seasons, at the present rents, 10825, 10826——Remunerating price for barley, 10827——Deficiency of barley on light soils in 1834, 10828, 10829——Barley is consumed for malt as fast as it is grown, 10830, 10831——Taking off the beer duty tended to raise the price of barley, 10832, 10833——Poor-rates in parishes near Leicester, 10834–10836——Labouring class never in so comfortable a condition as at present, 10837, 10838——Leases were more in use during the war than at present, 10840–10845——Where changes of tenantry have taken place, they have been among men of the ordinary caste, occupying inferior soils, 10846–10851.

Statement given in in 1833, of the expense per acre of cultivating an acre of fallow wheat at Normanton not quite correct, 18852——Course of cropping pursued on lands near Leicester, 10854——Farmers on light lands quite as well off as in 1833; better than heavy land farmers, 10855, 10856——Light land, on an average of years, will grow more wheat than the old wheat land, 10857, 10858——On inferior grass land the grazing farmer is as badly off as the arable farmer, 10859–10862——Present prices of store stock, and whether likely to be remunerative, 10863–10867——Not advantageous to grant leases of clay farms to men of small capital, 10868–10871——Practice with regard to allowance between the outgoing and incoming tenant on a clay farm, 10872–10875——Particulars as to the nature of the draining and cultivation pursued on Chatmoss, and as to the profit or loss thereon, 10879–10941.

Great demand for land in witness's neighbourhood, but little has changed hands within these two years, 10945——Opinion in favour of an alteration of the corn laws, by reducing the duty from 70*s.* to 60*s.*, 10946–10950——A fixed duty of 5*s.* would not injure any one, 10951——Averages are not now unfairly taken; seller making returns would give too much trouble; it would be difficult to detect a well-concerted fraud, 10952–10954——Establishment of joint stock banks; every one that ought to have accommodation can get it, 10955–10957——On the sale of the Tooley estate it made more than thirty years' purchase, 10058——Wheat at 45*s.* will not remunerate with 20*s.* an acre rent and 20 bushels per acre, 10960, 10961——Effect of the corn laws in encouraging fluctuation of price; steady price more advantageous to the farmer than high prices, particularly to prevent an increase of rent, 10962–10981——Decrease in poor-rates in the parish of Anslye from manufacturing prosperity, 10981, 10982

Ellis, John. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

10982——Agricultural interest is a thing resting between landlord and tenant, which is in the course of adjustment, and which it would be better that the legislature should not interfere with, 10985, 10986——If the legislature can make the price of wheat more steady, it will be an advantage, 10987.

Ellman, John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Farmer at Glynde, near Lewes; quantity of land occupied by witness, and nature of the soil, 4498–4503——Condition of farmers upon light lands much better of late years, owing to the increased price of wool, 4506–4508——Cultivators of clay lands in much the same condition as three years ago, 4508 —— Diminution of poor-rates owing to the beneficial operation of the Poor Law Bill, 4508 ——Increased production of, and increased weight from its better quality has caused the present low price of wheat, 4509–4514, 4583–4597——Increased consumption of wheat in witness's neighbourhood attributed to relief being given in kind, 4515——Want of employment very great in the parishes belonging to the West Firle Union, 4517 4526—— Labourers applying for relief are employed in digging flints, &c. for roads, 4525, 4526—— Effect of the Poor Law Bill on the morals and habits of labourers, 4528, 4529, 4763, 4764 ——The rot much more prevalent on lands at the foot of the downs than any other part of the country, 4530–4535, 4541——Crop of barley last year very short throughout the whole of Sussex, 4536–4538, 4598.

Rents on grazing lands lowered during the last ten years, 4545——Capital of the farmer very much diminished, 4546–4551, 4660, 4661 —— Importation from Ireland very injurious to the English farmer, 4554–4556 ——Beneficial, if the Irish labourers would be brought to consume their own produce, 4557, 4570–4573——Repeal of the malt duty would be a greater benefit to farmers than allowing them the unrestricted use of barley, 4558–4569, 4726–4729, 4808–4810 —— Average produce of wheat land held by witness, 4579–4582——Cultivation of barley would be carried to a much greater extent if malt duty repealed, 4599–4605 —— Course of cropping that would be adopted on displacing wheat for barley, 4606–4611 —— High price of mutton to be attributed to the failure of the turnip crop, 4616–4619——Quantity of sheep offered for sale at the present time quite equal to the quantity offered previous to the rot, and examination thereon, 4617–4637, 4743–4748——Increased price of wool caused by the increased demand of manufactures, 4638–4682.

Sheep farmers in very great distress previous to 1828, owing to the low price of wool, 4638, 4676–4678——Evidence as to the proportion the price of barley should bear to that of wheat, according to the different soils on which cultivated, 4689–4693——Wages in witness's neighbourhood 10*s.* to 14*s.* per week; parish labourers 7*s.*, 4694–4700 ——No difficulty in finding employment during the war, and rate of wages then, 4701–4705—— Equalization of the duties would facilitate the exportation of wool to France, 4706–4716 ——Composition made by witness for tithe on arable and pasture land too high, 4717–4724, 4736–4740——Tithe Bill, as at present framed, very unjust in its operations, 4733–4735——Very little tithe taken in kind in Sussex, 4741, 4742——Agricultural distress generally attributed to the fall in prices, caused by an alteration of the currency, 4749–4755——The price of oats not affected by the same causes as that of barley, 4756–4758 High price of wool has not been caused by any deficiency in the supply, 4759, 4760.

An alteration of the currency would be productive of greater benefit than a repeal of the malt duty, 4761, 4762——High price of wheat arises from farmers having fed pigs and cattle with it; crop of wheat does not look so favourable this as in former years, 4767–4776——Very little alteration in the stock of corn held by farmers now and formerly, 4779, 4780——The duty on candles and soap being taken off, and imposed on the importation of tallow would afford relief to the farmers, 4787–4802——Price of hides has increased since the tax on leather taken off, 4804——Unrestricted use of barley by the farmers is impracticable under the present excise regulations, 4811, 4812——Importation of Irish produce very extensive, 4820–4823——Diminishing the amount of local taxes very desirable, 4824–4839——County-rate very heavy in the parish of Glynde, 4829–4835——Duty being taken off clover-seed would be the ruin of farmers growing it, and evidence thereon, 4840–4860——Clover-seed very favourable for the growth of wheat and oats, 4844, 4845, 4859——Reason the cultivation of lucern abandoned in Sussex; white clover seed the most valuable, 4865–4867.

Emigration. Emigration to America has lessened the demand for wheat, *Brickwell* 416 ——That caused by the distress of 1824 has bettered the condition of those labourers remaining in the East Riding of York, *Howard* 5430–5449——Carried to a great extent in the East Riding of York, *Howard* 5506, 5507——Great many persons in Blythborough that would migrate if they had the means, *Cooper* 5777——Emigration not advantageous; there are not more people than necessary if employment could be found for them, *Cramp* 9583–9588——Different parishes in Sussex in which the landlords have assisted emigration, *Boniface* 13168——Emigration or migration from populous districts in some cases necessary, *Clarke* 13919–13921——Extent of emigration from Ireland to England, *Brassington* 14775, 14778, 14779.

See also *Bog Lands. Capital*, 5. *Poor Law Act Amendment Bill. Population.*

Employment of Labourers. See *Agricultural Labourers*, 1.

Entails, Law of. Farmers of Ayr suggest the alteration of this law, so as to permit proprietors of entailed estates to rank expenses of draining and improvements as burthens on the heirs of entail, *Brown* 12224.

Essex. Rate of land tax there, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9136——Further evidence relative to the land tax in the county of Essex, and how far the land has borne the tax, although personal property liable, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9137–9140.

Europe, North of. See *Population. Rye.*

Exchanges. It would not affect foreign exchanges if there was a silver standard, *Langhorn* 8950–8956——Manner in which the Bank Restriction Act operated on the exchange with foreign countries, as regards exports of British manufactures, *Muntz* 16346–16350.

See also *Bullion.*

Exchequer Bills. Issue of in 1817 for general relief, *Jacob* 238——Scotch bankers settle their accounts in Edinburgh by Exchequer bills, *Langhorn* 7748–7751——Effect of the issue of Exchequer bills in 1797 on prices, *Spooner* 15686——An issue of Exchequer bills relieved the distress of 1793, which was Mr. Pitt's general remedy for distress; use of Exchequer bills in supporting private credit, Lord *Ashburton* 17551–17553.

Excise Regulations. See *Malt Duty*, 2.

Expense of Cultivation. See *Cultivation.*

Export Trade. Export trade reducing from the present rise of prices, though that trade would be increased if prices rose from a variation in the standard, *Muntz* 16492–16495 Nominal increase of exports in the reverse of a test of prosperity, *Muntz* 16496, 16497 ——Effect of the loss of the export trade on manufacturing labourers, particularly if the price of agricultural produce rises, *Muntz* 16651–16661——Account of the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures to the countries from which corn is exported, from 1829 to 1836, *App. III. p.* 542.

F.

Failures. Those in the East Indies and of old establishments in London, of late years, have been from their not having reduced their establishments to meet the change from war prices, *Sanders* 7101——Farmers on clay lands have been constantly failing for the last five or six years, *Cox* 14133–14135——Failures among farmers have been greater since 1833 than in 1822, *Calthorp* 7795–7798——There has been no failure of a bank in Ayrshire for the last thirty years, *Brown* 12267.

See also *Banks, Country*, 1. *Irish Banking System. Joint Stock Banks. Shopkeepers.*

FARMERS:

1. *Comparative condition of, at different periods.*
2. *Distress of.*
3. *Comparative prosperity of.*
4. *In Ireland.*
5. *In Scotland.*

1. *Comparative condition of, at different periods.*

Comparative condition of 1822 to 1830, *Houghton* 711–714——Not so good as six years ago in Bucks, *Morton* 3657–3663——In Warwickshire, *Crowther* 13312, 13313 ——As ten years ago in Essex, *Babbs* 3259, 3332–3334——As twenty years ago in Huntingdon, *Bowyer* 3518——In the East Riding of York, *Howard* 5363——In Leicestershire, *Ellis* 10795, 10796——In Sussex, *Freeland* 14818, 14910–14915——As in 1822, *Sanders* 6750——As in 1825, *Houghton* 954–956——By thirty per cent. as in 1818, *Calthrop* 7790–7794——As in 1826, *Ellis* 10811–10813——Witness is not richer than he was four years ago, *Stares* 11753——They are as well off as twenty years ago, where they have not had to pay extravagant rents, *Crowther* 12930–12937——They were better off in 1797 than at present; prices were higher and expenses lower, *Parker* 12515–12519 ——Condition of farmers has been bad; but since rents have been lowered it has improved, *Parker* 12401, 12402——Moral and intellectual state of farmers is superior to what it was forty years ago; there is more intelligence and knowledge of business, *Bickerton* 8751–8756.

Deteriorated condition of, since 1833, generally, *Sanders* 6757–6767——In Bucks, *Morton* 3657–3663, 3755——In Cambridge, *Fison* 12643——In Essex, *Page* 2805–2812; *Fison* 12643; *Boniface* 13123——In Hampshire, *Stares* 11496, 11497, 11552—— In Kent, *Neave* 9336–9340——In Middlesex, *Tillyer* 4216–4218——In Norfolk, *Fison* 12643——In Nottinghamshire, *Stevenson* 13055–13060——In Shropshire, *Bickerton* 8666–8670, 8803——In Somersetshire, *Huncock* 11281–11283, 11301, 11409, 11410 ——In Suffolk, *Cooper* 5619; *Fison* 12643——In Sussex, *Goodman* 10997, 10998; *Freeland* 14818, 14910–14915——In Warwickshire, *Umbers* 8567——Improved condition of, since 1833——In Bedfordshire, *Bennett* 8184——In Essex, *Babbs* 3253–3260 ——Hop farmers in Kent, *Neave* 9336–9340——In Leicestershire, *Ellis* 10700—— In Lincolnshire, *Byron* 8388——In the weald of Sussex, *Smallpiece* 3022–3025——In the west of England, *Smallpiece* 2838, 2839——Condition much the same as in 1833 in Glamorganshire, *David* 4436——In Huntingdonshire, *Bowyer* 3429, 3430——In the wolds of Lincolnshire, *Iles* 7318

FARMERS:—continued.

2. *Distress of.*

Distress of, generally, *Spooner* 15572–15576——In Bucks, *Houghton*, 954–956; *Rolfe* 1356; *Cortis* 1759; *Sanders* 6796, 6797——In Cambridgeshire, *Thurnall* 2339–2348——In Essex, *Page* 2805–2812; *Babbs* 3249——In Huntingdonshire, *Bowyer*, 3497–3502——In Middlesex, *Tillyer* 4152–4155, 4163, 4164——In Glamorganshire, *David* 4418–4422——In Lincolnshire, *Byron* 8441–8443——In Somersetshire, *Hall* 4969–4973——In the East Riding of York, *Howard* 5363, 5364, 5530–5534——In Suffolk, *Cooper* 5619, 5764, 5765——In Oxfordshire, *Sanders* 6796, 6797——In Northumberland, *Langhorn* 7552, 7553——In Lincolnshire, *Calthrop* 7795–7798, 7893–7895——In Cambridgeshire and the neighbouring counties, are in a state of insolvency, *Thurnall* 2339–2348——In Holderness and Howdenshire, *Howard* 5364, 5530–5534——In Suffolk, *Cooper* 5764, 5765.

Several in the neighbourhood of Beaconsfield have been obliged to give up, and there are many on the brink of ruin, *Rolfe* 1356——Small farmers rely almost entirely on the wheat crop, *Byron* 8387——Many small farmers in Lincolnshire, on ploughed lands, would be glad to change conditions with their labourers, *Calthrop* 7893–7895——Instances of farmers who have left their occupations and become day-labourers, *Bickerton* 8691–8693——Poverty of tenants very great in one instance where rents were paid, *Thurnall* 2442–2445.

Small farmers very little better than paupers in Essex, *Babbs* 3249——It depends on a small farmer's management whether he is badly off as a larger farmer, *Tillyer* 4182——Small clay farmers are the most distressed, *Iles* 7425——Large occupiers are more prosperous than small ones in Lincolnshire, *Calthrop* 7958–7961——Small farmers with little capital on heavy soils have not been improving their condition, *Brown* 12162–12164——Condition of on poor soils mainly attributed to the transition from war to peace, *Ellis* 10797–10802——Condition of, generally speaking, is poor; but little improvement of late years on their farms, *Goodman* 11016–11018.

3. *Comparative prosperity of.*

They have been prosperous under tithe, and when the malt tax, county rate and assessed taxes were higher, *Houghton* 751–760——Lowland farmers suffered more from the rot than the upland farmers, the latter having partly gained by the losses of the former, *Houghton* 1063–1069——If witness had started in 1820, and been dependent upon farming alone, with a high money rent, he would have been ruined by this time, *Umbers* 8487–8493; *Howden* 10123–10126——They are not injured by over production, but by selling at low prices, *Spooner* 15691——Reasons the farmer cannot be said to have been prosperous at any time within the last six or seven years, *Lord Ashburton* 17593–17595——They are not so badly off on good soils, *Sanders* 6757–6767——The tenants are as prosperous as they always were; their habits are not less expensive, *Bennett* 8327–8329.

State of the farming interest in Buckinghamshire from 1820, *Morton* 3895–3913——State of farming in Essex in different years since 1819, *Babbs* 3341–3346, 3352, 3353——Condition of farmers in Essex is better than it was, 1828 to 1830, *Kemp* 2049–2051——Where farmers in Gloucestershire have not had to pay extravagantly high rents they have been doing pretty well; those who have been obliged to do so are poor, *Crowther* 12812–12814——Those in Gloucestershire and Warwickshire, with wheat at present prices, are not in distress, *Crowther* 12982–12990, 13031–13033.

Those on wold lands would not be in their present situation but for the high price obtained for their wool and mutton, *Atkinson* 5951, 5952——Farmers in Lincolnshire are not prosperous, but from their good husbandry they have not experienced that distress that farmers in many districts have done, *Atkinson* 5921, 5929, 5938——Farmers of Lincolnshire are, generally speaking, solvent, *Calthrop* 7958–7961, 8029, 8030——Those with capital on mixed grazing and ploughed farms have not been suffering, *Calthrop* 8038——Many large capitalists in the neighbourhood of Spalding who made fortunes during the last war, *Calthrop* 8126——Those near London do not feel the general prosperity or adversity so much as others, *Tillyer* 4255——Condition of farmers in Somersetshire, *Hancock* 11382——On stock farms in Sussex have done better where the rot did not affect them, *Boniface* 13151–13153——In Warwickshire are not in difficulties, *Crowther* 13312, 13313.

4. *In Ireland.*

Advantages they possess over British farmers, *David* 4315, 4316, 4407, 4408——The majority of those in Ireland are little better than serfs, *Sanders* 6018——Condition of those on the western coast of Ireland, *Sanders* 6958——Farmers in different parts of Ireland who have got out of tillage and keep stock are in a fair way of paying their rents; small farmers depending solely on agriculture are not, *Shawe* 14255, 14262, 14348——Small holdings of farmers in Cork; land very indifferent, but little grazing; course of cropping, produce principally oats; amount of rent; local burthens and condition of peasantry, *Shawe* 14284–14293——In Kildare are better off than those in Cork, *Shawe* 14294.

Condition of farmers is gradually improving, but they are not in so independent a state, many holding under temporary abatements, *Shawe* 14437, 14438——Farmers are as rich a body as ten or fifteen years ago; some of them, though rarely, have purchased estates, *Shawe* 14442–14444——Farmers in Ireland are not so rich as they were fifteen

Farmers:—4. *In Ireland*—continued.

years ago; there has not been much change in the last six or ten years; they have not been able to keep their expensive mode of living acquired during the war, *Brassington* 14750–14753——Comparative state of the farmer in Ireland now and during the war; gradual improvement going on more or less almost every where, *Blacker* 15490–15493——Whether high rents and falling prices have not caused greater exertions to be made in improving cultivation than would have been if farmers had remained prosperous, *Blacker* 15488, 15489.

5. *In Scotland.*

Improvement in their condition since 1833——In Aberdeenshire, *Walker* 10509, 10510, 10667——In Haddingtonshire, *Hope* 9710——In East Lothian, *Howden* 9972–9974——They have all been doing pretty well in Scotland, except those growing only wheat, *Oliphant* 11154-11156——Scotch farmers taking English farms not so well able to take advantage of improvements as a native would be, added to which, they are not used to the local taxation, *Oliphant* 11272–11275——Farmers in Scotland are looking forward to an increase of prices, *Church* 13569——In Scotland they would rather have war prices, but it is more to their interest to be on the present footing, *Menzies* 14068–14071——When the Scotch farmers found wheat did not pay they altered their system of cultivation, *Robertson* 13677–13680——Intelligence of Scotch farmers in their possession; great desire to improve, *Smith* 15234–15236——Extent of distress of Scotch farmers, and causes to which their improved condition in the last two years to be attributed, *Burgess* 16090–16098——Produce of the Scotch farmer consists in a much greater degree of wool than that of the English farmer, *Burgess* 16099–16101.

They are in a good state in Ayrshire, *Brown* 12153–12156——Suggestions by farmers for the removal of certain grievances affecting them, *Brown* 12224–12228——Whether farmers in Ayrshire have made as much money during the last nineteen years as they did in any previous nineteen years, *Brown* 12278–12296——Instances of farmers who have farmed all their lives now purchasing farms for 5,000*l.* or 6,000*l.*, *Brown* 12206, 12207——Ayrshire farmers would not have been so well off if they had had to depend solely on corn, *Brown* 12323——The condition of the farmer in Berwickshire is in general in a most satisfactory state, *Bell* 11888——Difficult to say whether farmers in Dumfries are richer than they were twenty years ago, *Church* 13463–13466——Condition of farmers of Forfar, Kincardine and Aberdeenshires not prosperous, but they are in a sound and healthy state, *Robertson* 13599-13628——Condition of, much improved since 1824, *Robertson* 13624, 13625——Farmers would rather have their present prospects than return to a similar artificial state to that which took place during the war, *Robertson* 13726-13730——State of, in Kincardine, *Walker* 10566–10570——They were better off in East Lothian before the war in 1792 than they now are, *Howden* 10108–10113.

See also *Agricultural Distress. Agricultural Produce. Agriculture. Banks Country*, 2. *Bonded Corn*, 3. *Capital. Clay Lands. Corn Laws*, 2, 3. *Corn Rents*, 2. *Cultivation, I. Failures. Fixed Duty*, 2. *Flax*, 3. *Foreign Corn. Graziers. Irish Corn*, 3. *Irish Produce. Joint Stock Banks. Light Lands. Loans. Malt Tax*, 3. *Manufacturing Interests. Markets. Petitions to Parliament. Premiums. Price of Corn*, 3, 6, 7, 9. *Provincial Banks. Reform Bill. Rent*, 1, 3, 4, 6. *Rot. Scotch One-pound Notes. Statistics. Stock of Corn on Hand. Taxation. Tenantry. Tradesmen. War. Wool.*

Farming Expenses. They have not been reduced to a level with farming profits, *Muntz* 16511–16513——In Buckinghamshire, *Brickwell* 594, 595; *Cortis* 1800–1836; *Morton* 3914–3921——In Essex, *Kemp* 2011–2013, 2067–2069; *Parker* 12430——In Leicestershire, *Ellis* 10818–10821——In Somersetshire, *Hancock* 11391–11394——In Suffolk, *Cooper* 5727–5733——Are reduced in Surrey, *Smallpiece* 2855, 3084–3088——Extent to which they have been reduced in Bucks, *Houghton* 903–906, 912–921——In East Lothian, *Hope* 9935, 9936——Are considerably higher than they were thirty years ago in Shropshire, *Bickerton* 8694, 8695.

See also *Cultivation. Poor Law Amendment Act. Price of Corn*, 3. *Profit and Loss.*

Farming Tradesmen. Complaints by, of landlords being paid and their bills left unpaid, *Rolfe* 1498–1501; *Calthrop* 7962–7964; *Bickerton* 8866–8869; *Neave* 9450, 9451——There is a competition of farming tradesmen in Blythborough, *Cooper* 5807——Are paid better in proportion to the price of produce than they ever were, *Rolfe* 1392, 1393.

Farm Buildings. State of in Buckinghamshire, *Brickwell* 366——In Shropshire they are generally kept up by the landlords, *Bickerton* 8690——Farm buildings in Kildare are comfortable, but are done without allowance from the landlords, *Shawe* 14320, 14321——In Berwickshire they are put in good condition by the landlord when the tenant takes possion, the tenant keeping them in repair, *Bell* 11853–11855——Improvements therein in Haddingtonshire, *Hope* 9898–9901.

See also *Farms*, 1. *Roofs.*

605

FARMS:—continued.

1. *Size of Farms and description of soil.*
2. *Bad condition of Farms.*
3. *Extent of Farms untenanted or thrown out of cultivation.*
4. *Facilities of letting Farms or difficulties in the way of letting.*

1. *Size of Farms and description of soil.*

Description of land and amount of rent on two farms at Southminster and Foulness, *Page* 2627-2647——Size of, in Essex, *Babbs* 3248——Nature of, the soil in Gloucestershire; rent paid and average produce in wheat and oats, *Crowther* 13376-13387——Nature of land under cultivation in Huntingdonshire, *Bowyer* 3507——Those within eighteen miles have not much advantage from the London market, *Morton* 3877-3879——Size of farms have very much decreased in the East Riding York, *Howard* 5495——Size of farms that have been subdivided; the consequent reduction of rent and increasing farm buildings have been a pressure on the landlord; the tenants are part labourers and part farmers, *Howard* 5551-5560——Size of farms in Ireland are small, *Blacker* 15367——Advantage to consolidote small farms, *Shawe* 14314-14316——Size of farms various; they are let on lease and landlords in some instances allow for improvements made during the term, *Robertson* 13738-13742——Size of farms; power of cultivation tends to increase the size of farms; quantity and quality of corn on large farms superior to that grown on small ones, *Oliphant* 11259-11262.

2. *Bad condition of Farms.*

Land this side of the Tweed to Leeds is in its present state of culture unable to pay any rents; if it were furrow-drained there would be a vast improvement, *Howden* 10174——There are many thousands of acres of the best land in England, yielding only a fourth part of the produce, which a small amount of intelligence and industry applied to it would quadruple, *Oliphant* 11222-11226——Produce of the soil of England might with ease be doubled, *Oliphant* 11270——On some farms a man cannot pay his way if he has no rent to pay, *Brickwell* 429-432——About 1827, certain farms in Bucks were impoverished by more wheat being grown on them than ought to have been, *Brickwell* 535-539——Have been improved in Essex, where capital laid out on them, *Babbs* 3257, 3258, 3301-3304.

3. *Extent of Farms untenanted or thrown out of cultivation.*

Few untenanted in Bedfordshire; the new Poor Law Bill has caused one farm to be let, which was in landlord's hands two years, *Bennett* 8202-8205——Land not thrown out of, *Jacob* 91——Some have been thrown out of cultivation, although great reductions of rent have been offered, in Bucks, *Rolfe* 1713-1731——Not so much land untenanted as some time back, from the landlords having made very great sacrifices, *Kemp* 1969-1973——There are many untenanted in Essex, *Kemp* 2044——Number of farms in Essex that are untenanted, and are in the landlords' hands from having been worked out of condition, *Babbs* 3240-3243——Landlords taking farms into their own hands will not be repaid their outlay at present prices; but produce will be increased from that outlay more than it was diminished by the tenant running out the land, *Babbs* 3335-3340——Several in Huntingdonshire that are out of occupation, *Bowyer* 3456——Farm near Guildford unlet in 1833, taken since by a Hampshire tenant, who cannot stay; the land could be drained, but not at the present price of wheat, *Smallpiece* 2872-2876——Rate of rent per acre on that farm, *Smallpiece* 2918——Lands that have gone out of cultivation in Melbourne and the neighbourhood are in a state of waste; a prudent expenditure of capital by landlords, in time, might have saved them, *Howard* 5573-5584——But at present prices would have been lost to the landlord, *Howard* 5598-5601.

4. *Facilities of letting Farms, or difficulties in the way of letting.*

No difficulty in letting farms at a fair rent to a tenant of good capital, *Jacob* 91, 240; *Earl of Radnor* 16854——Great competition for farms in Gloucestershire, *Hall* 4677-4979——In Leicestershire, *Ellis* 10945——In Lincolnshire, *Calthorp* 8158——In Middlesex, *Sherborn* 4033——In Norfolk, *Fison* 12662——In Somersetshire, *Hancock* 11404-11406——In Sussex, *Goodman* 11040, 11041——In Warwick, *Umbers* 8519-8521——[In Scotland.] In Ayrshire, *Brown* 12181-12187, 12205——In Berwickshire, *Langhorn* 7771; *Bell*; 12016-12018——In Dumfries, *Church* 13548——In Haddingtonshire, *Hope* 9751-9755——In Kincardineshire, *Robertson* 13611-13613, 13645——If witness's farm, in Cambridge, to let, tenants would be glad to take it from the manure upon it, and the good cultivation in which kept, *Thurnall* 2446-2448, 2453-2457——Witness's farm, in Sussex, could be let on the same terms on which it is held at present, *Boniface* 13221, 13222——Difficulty of letting in Bucks, *Rolfe* 1365, 1366; *Morton* 3761-3769——In Middlesex, *Tillyer* 4177——Poor farms in Bucks, *Brickwell* 401——In Essex, *Babbs* 3246, 3247——In Middlesex, *Sherborn* 4033——Turnip land lets easier in Bucks, *Morton* 3709-3715——In Essex, *Parker* 12422, 12423——In Berwickshire, *Bell* 12016-12018——Difficulty of finding tenants with capital in Essex, *Parker* 12422, 12423——In Warwick, *Umbers* 8519-8521.

See also *Bedford, Duke of. Clay Lands*, 4, 5. *Cultivation, II. Land. Landlords*, 3. *Metropolitan Farms. Upland Farms.*

Farnham. Rent of a farm at Farnham; bad state of it, *Smallpiece* 2937, 2938.

Featherstone, Mr. Amount per acre paid by Mr. Featherstone for draining, which will not be repaid, *Shawe* 14355–14361.

Feeding Cattle. See *Cattle*, 3, 4. *Consumption of Wheat. Cropping. Lothian, East. Malt Duty*, 6. *Manure. Oil Cake. Price of Corn*, 8, 10. *Turnips.*

Fen Lands. More wheat grown in Lincolnshire than 20 or 30 years ago, in consequence of the cultivation of wold and fen lands with wheat, *Houghton* 1092–1104——Course of husbandry on, in Lincolnshire, *Houghton* 1105–1113——The fen lands of Huntingdonshire will grow barley fit for seed in the upland; if the upland barley could be made into malt, the fen land would be cultivated for that purpose, *Bowyer* 3620——Those used for grazing 35 years ago began to be ploughed from high prices of 1800 and 1801 and during the war, which custom has continued, *Calthrop* 7806, 7807——The immense tracts of land brought into wheat cultivation in the fens of Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk, have had a great effect on the price of wheat, *Calthorp* 8005——Considerable district of fen land brought into cultivation within these few years, *Spooner* 15804.
See also *Capital*, 4. *Corn Returns*, 1. *Flax*, 1.

Fiars. Mode of striking the fiars in Aberdeenshire, *Walker* 10601–10606——In Forfarshire and Kincardineshire, *Robertson* 13790–13796——In Haddingtonshire, *Hope* 9716–9727; *Brodie* 10349–10359——In East Lothian, *Howden* 10127–10137——In Perthshire, *Oliphant* 11101–11103——Class of witnesses that are examined when the fiars are struck at Dumfries, *Church* 13592–13595——Manner in which the fiars prices are struck in the several counties of Scotland, *App. III. p.* 561.
See also *Clergy. Corn Rents. Rent*, 8.

Fictitious Sales. See *Averages*, 2.

Fires. In Buckinghamshire have not operated to increase wages, *Brickwell* 551, 552——Fires keep up wages 50 per cent. in Cambridge, *Thurnall* 2351–2353, 2385–2387——Cause of fires at the period when Lord Grey came into office, and effect of them on wages and machinery, Earl *Radnor* 16895–16903.
See also *Intimidation. Wages.*

Fish Manure. Amount paid for fish manure annually in East Lothian, *Howden* 10040.

Fison, James. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Of the firm of James Fison & Sons of Thetford, Norfolk, maltsters, corn, seed and wool merchants, 12638–12640——Farmers on light soils in as good a state as in 1833; on heavier soils not so well off, 12643——Crops of last year equal to four average years, 12644.

Distress of farmers on heavy soils caused by low price of wheat, and farming under war rents, 12646–12649——Reduction of rent has not been equal to the rise occasioned by the war, and the improvements have not been sufficient to pay those increased rents, 12650–12653——Poor Law Bill has reduced rates, 12654–12656——It has had an excellent effect on the character of labourers, 12657, 12658——Migration to the manufacturing districts has been promoted by it, 12658–12660.

Great competition for farms, particularly by small farmers wishing to take larger ones, 12662——Opinion of farmers that high rents have been paid at the expense of labour, 12664——Agricultural distress partly caused by the want of intelligence among the bulk of farmers, 12665, 12666——Poor Law Bill will allow farmers to use machinery to a great extent, 12667——Increased consumption of barley by taking off the beer duty has caused barley to bear a higher proportion than usual to the price of wheat, 12668, 12669——Average produce of barley, 12670–12675——Whether reducing the malt duty would cause more barley to be grown, 12675, 12676——Manner in which the present corn laws act injuriously to the occupier of the soil, 12678–12679——Advantage of a fixed duty beginning high, and annually reducing as low as 5*s.* a quarter, 12680.

Farmers with 5*s.* protecting duty could ultimately compete with the continent, 12681——With proper skill and intelligence wheat could be grown profitably at 40*s.*, 12687–12690——Capital and stock are necessary for profitable farming, 12691, 12692——Advantages to commerce and manufacturers from a free trade in corn, 12693–12700——Millions of acres of land on the continent capable of supplying wool, 12705–12709——Forty shillings for wheat under a fixed duty would only throw the heavy lands out of wheat cultivation, 12712, 12713——Price that may be calculated upon for wheat, barley and oats under the present corn law, 12714–12716——Fluctuations in price under the present corn law, 12717–12720——Alteration of the corn law would raise the price of labour abroad and so benefit the manufacturer, 12722, 12723——High price of wool attributed to the rising state of manufactures aud the great demand there is from all quarters; the rot affected it in 1833 and 1834, but not at present, 12725–12728——The flocks lost by the rot have been replaced, 12729–12731.

Price of wheat at present which will not be lower, 12733–12735——Smaller quantity of wheat sown, 12736, 12737——Landlords have it more in their power to benefit agriculture than the legislature, 12742——Whether if the manufacturing interest had not been so prosperous, or provisions had been dearer, the Poor Law Bill could have been carried into effect so satisfactorily, 12743–12745——The war rents have not been reduced in a corresponding ratio to the reduction of prices since the peace,

Fison, James. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

peace, 12746–12747——Fixed duty of 5*s.* could not be maintained in times of scarcity, 12748–12750——Export duty put on by the King of Prussia during the scarcity of 1800, 12751–12753——Under a fixed duty the kingdom would not be so placed at the mercy of any foreign power, 12754——Purchases from the Baltic are making now to be shipped in the spring, 12755——With a fixed duty of 5*s.* farmers on the best estates in Norfolk could afford to pay a rent, but not their present rent; that measure must be supported by the successful working of the Poor Law Bill, and a greater reduction of rent than 25 per cent. from war rents, and also by greater science being applied to agriculture, 12756–12766.

Five-course Husbandry is pursued at Denham, *Morton* 3800, 3801——Is considered the best, *Bell* 11840, 11841——Nature of the five-course shift, *Robertson* 13810, 13811.

See also *Cropping.*

Five-pound Notes. Circulation of Bank of England five-pound notes in 1819–1825, *Langhorn* 7659——Reduction in the number of five-pound notes issued since 1814, *Langhorn* 7696–7700——The five-pound note tender clause makes joint stock banks more careless in their mode of transacting business; but, in the event of a panic, would have a beneficial and mitigating effect, *Sanders* 6099–6102.

See also *Panic. Silver Standard.*

Fixed Charges or Engagements. See *Cash Payments.*

Fixed Duty on the Import of Corn:

1. *Advantages of a Fixed Duty.*
2. *Disadvantages of.*
3. *Effect of, on price.*
4. *Effect of, in throwing land in England out of cultivation.*
5. *Effect of, in increasing the growth of corn on the Continent for the English market.*
6. *Doubts as to a Fixed Duty being maintained in times of scarcity.*
7. *Different amounts of Fixed Duty proposed.*

1. *Advantages of a Fixed Duty.*

Opinions in favour of a fixed duty, *Cortis* 1903–1905, 1910, 1911; *Hodgson* 6496–6500; *Umbers* 8257——A fixed duty would be better than releasing bonded corn for flour, *Hodgson* 6374——Corn-factors engaged in the foreign corn trade are more in favour of a high fixed duty than of any thing approaching to free trade, *Sturge* 7295–7298——Cheapness of food under free trade would compensate the landlord and labourer for the fall of prices, the charges on land remaining the same, *Sturge* 7301, 7302.

2. *Disadvantages of.*

On corn not so beneficial as the present system, *David* 4399, 4400; *Ruding* 17227——It will not regulate the importation of corn on a better principle, *Sanders* 6045——It would be fatal to the agricultural interests of Ireland, *Sanders* 7019——Farmers advocate a fixed duty, which must proceed from a want of knowledge of their own interest, *Sanders* 7022, 7023——Sliding scale more advantageous than a fixed duty production under a protection would equal consumption, shown by improvements in agriculture and the cultivation of bog, fen and waste lands, *Calthrop* 8058–8062.

3. *Effect of, on price.*

Whether the opinion that a fixed duty on corn would cause less fluctuation in price is borne out by the fluctuations in the price of wool and tallow under a fixed duty, *Hodgson* 6476-6478——Advantage of a fixed duty in causing a less fluctuation in price, *Hodgson* 6496–6500; *Bell* 12031–12035——Price to which wheat would fall in this country under a fixed duty, *Calthrop* 7879——Of 8*s.*, would reduce prices at first, but eventually raise them, *Calthrop* 8019–8022.

4. *Effect of, in throwing land in England out of cultivation.*

Probably poor soils could not be cultivated to advantage with a fixed duty of 8*s.*, *Hodgson* 6568–6569——Forty shillings for wheat under a fixed duty would only throw the heavy lands out of wheat cultivation, *Fison* 12712, 12713——Land that would be thrown out of cultivation under witness's plan of fixed duties, might be employed in grazing, *Hayes* 17436–17444.

5. *Effect of, in increasing the growth of corn on the Continent for the English market.*

Whether the bonded corn is the surplus of exporting countries, or whether under a fixed duty other countries would not grow corn to send here, *Hodgson* 6479–6487——Whether a fixed duty of 8*s.* would not cause foreign wheat to be sent here cheaper than it could be grown in England, *Hodgson* 6501–6510——If the ports always open at a fixed duty of 8*s.*, foreigners would supply this country at about 36*s.* or 38*s.*, which would ruin the agricultural and milling interests of Ireland, *Sanders* 6954–6957——Under a fixed duty, countries not now exporting would grow it expressly for England to any

Fixed Duty on the Import of Corn:—5. *Effect of, in increasing the growth of corn on the Continent for the English market*—continued.

amount, *Calthrop* 7864–7867——A fixed duty might cause more land to be brought into the cultivation of corn on the continent, though they might take some British produce in exchange, *Bell* 12039, 12040——Would cause an increased growth of corn abroad, *Calthrop* 8019–8022——Under a fixed duty the kingdom would not be placed at the mercy of any foreign power, *Fison* 12754.

6. *Doubt as to a Fixed Duty being maintained in times of scarcity.*

Whether a fixed duty could be maintained under a great rise in the price of corn, *Hodgson* 6537–6542, 6550——Of 8*s.* objectionable; it would not exclude the foreign corn grown in cheap countries, and in times of scarcity must be taken off altogether, *Calthrop* 7861–7863——Fixed duty impossible to be maintained with wheat at 80*s.*, *Sanders* 6952——A fixed duty that would be a protection with abundant crops would no be tolerated in a scarcity, *Hope* 9774——Of 5*s.* could not be maintained in times of scarcity, *Fison* 12748–12750——A fixed duty might be tampered with from the report of a bad crop causing the pressure from without to influence the legislature, *Robertson* 13779–13782.

7. *Different amounts of Fixed Duty proposed.*

Of 30*s.* a quarter to be paid on import, which would prevent bonding in this country, would prevent the markets here being glutted and leave a fair remuneration to the foreign grower, *Umbers* 8527, 8532–8535, 8574——A fixed duty should be imposed equivalent to the taxation direct and indirect that falls on grain grown here; 30*s.* proposed; doubts whether that or 15*s.* could be maintained in scarce years, *Bickerton* 8758–8768——Proposition for a fixed duty, *Howden* 10230——A fixed duty should be laid on as high as the country could bear it and be reduced gradually to a nominal amount, which would give time for land to find its natural value, *Bell* 12042, 12043——Advantage of a fixed duty, beginning high and annually reducing as low as 5*s.* per quarter, *Fison* 12680——Opinion in favour of a fixed duty of from 12*s.* to 15*s.* a quarter, but which or half of which could not be maintained in times of scarcity, *Crowther* 13035–13050——A fixed duty of 10*s.* or 15*s.* could not be enforced, *Ruding* 17267–17274——Opinion in favour of a fixed duty of 20*s.*, which will be paid by the producer and not by the consumer in this country; whether it can be levied in time of scarcity for protecting the home growth, *Blacker* 15506–15542——Objection to a fixed duty of 4*s.* or 5*s.*, particularly when wheat is high, *Ruding* 17095–17099.

Advantage of a fixed duty of 8*s.*, *Hodgson* 6355–6358, 6432–6444, 6673–6680; *Calthrop* 8019–8022—— *Hayes* 17343–17357——It would render the price more certain and steady at home, and cause a regular supply from the Baltic, and decrease the supply from America, *Hodgson* 6355–6358——It would be more beneficial to the consumer and farmer than to the corn-factor, *Hodgson* 6432–6444——A fixed duty of 8*s.* might be maintained, except under circumstances of very rare occurrence, *Hodgson* 6673–6680.

A fixed duty of 5*s.* would not injure any one, *Ellis* 10951——Farmers with 5*s.* protecting duty could ultimately compete with the continent, *Fison* 12681——With a fixed duty of 5*s.*, farmers on the best estates in Norfolk could afford to pay a rent, but not their present rent; that measure must be supported by the successful working of the Poor Law Bill, and a greater reduction of rent than 25 per cent. from war rents; and also, by greater science being applied to agriculture, *Fison* 12756–12766.

See also *Bonded Corn*, 5. *Dantzic Wheat*. *Irish Corn*, 1. *Manufacturing Interests*.

Fixed Engagements. Increase of price by alteration of currency, would only benefit those under fixed engagements, Earl *Radnor* 16838–16845.

Fixed Incomes. Mr. Peel's Bill was very severe upon persons with fixed incomes, *Blacker* 15447, 15448——Small advantages that persons of fixed incomes have gained by low prices; the fall has not extended so much to retail as wholesale prices, *Muntz* 16427–16435.

Flax:

1. *Necessity for a protecting duty on.*
2. *Possibility of cultivating it, and whether deteriorating to the land.*
3. *Extension of the cultivation of, latterly.*

1. *Necessity for a protecting duty on.*

Great quantity of flax and hemp would be grown in this country, if there was a sufficient protecting duty, *Calthrop* 7822——Duty that would be a sufficient protection, *Calthrop* 8049–8057——Duty on flax would be advantageous to the fen lands of Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Yorkshire, *Calthrop* 8092——Taking off the duty on foreign flax caused less to be grown; difference in the mode of preparing it, *Hancock* 11488–11492——Duty on foreign flax did not exist of late years, *Blacker* 15380–15382——If there is a protecting duty on flax, present rents can be maintained in Ireland with wheat at 6*s.* a bushel; even 5*s.* would be remunerative under an improved system of cultivation, *Blacker* 15569——Growth of flax should be protected in the same way grain now is, *Blacker* 15401–15403, 15506.

FLAX:—continued.

2. *Possibility of cultivating it, and whether deteriorating to the land.*

It might be cultivated in the county of Warwick, *Umbers* 8547–8549——It might with profit be generally introduced throughout the good lands of England, *Hancock* 11485——It could be profitably grown in Ireland with no duty at all, *Calthrop* 8094–8097——Cultivation of flax in Ireland may be greatly extended; it may be grown on every farm, to a limited extent, but should be laid down with grass and clover, *Blacker* 15397–15401——It must be sown on the very best arable land, *Hancock* 11296——Is always grown on the best land, *Clarke* 13900–13907——It is a good preparation for wheat, *Calthrop* 8093——Turnips and wheat after flax, and wheat is generally prosperous after that crop, and the turnip crop after flax is generally very good, *Hancock* 11300——It deteriorates the land and leaves nothing to improve it, *Brodie* 10414, 10415——Advantages of growing flax; employment of labour; remunerating price; wheat grows well after it; not so impoverishing as potatoes, *Hancock* 11472–11482——If flax sown with clover and grass, it is the best for laying down land with, *Blacker* 15373.

3. *Extension of the cultivation of, latterly.*

The cultivation of flax affords a greater employment than other crops, *Howard* 5497–5501, 5561; *Calthrop* 8049–8057——Remuneration formerly obtained by the growth of flax and hemp; the reduction of duty discouraged its growth and turned the land to wheat; produce per acre, and means by which it may be prevented from exhausting the land, *Calthrop* 7808–7828——Comparison between the war prices of flax and hemp; many farmers about recommencing that culture, even at the present low duty, *Calthrop* 8011–1018——Growth of flax has increased in a district of forty or fifty miles from Wellington and Tiverton to Yeovil and Sherborne, *Hancock* 11293–11299——The growth has increased during the last three years, *Hancock* 11487——Growth of flax increased, and could be further increased, if there were an increased demand, *Brassington* 14770, 14771.

It is not now considered worth growing from the low price, *Clarke* 13900–13907——In the flax-growing counties the tenantry have improved from the high return that flax makes; it has in a great degree been substituted for wheat, *Blacker* 15364–15366——Manufacturers find English flax better than foreign, *Hancock* 11484——Manner in which demand for foreign flax by mill-spinners destroyed the home growth; failure of the continental crop has caused increased growth, *Blacker* 15379——Expense of cultivating an acre of flax, produce per acre, *Blacker* 15374–15378——Average produce of white flax per acre, *Calthrop* 7825; of seed-flax, *Calthrop* 7825——Reduction of about half the rent at Somerville Aston from flax not being now allowed to be grown, which it was formerly, *Crowther* 13016, 13017.

See also *Bog Lands. Clay Lands*, 5. *Grass Lands*, 2. *Shipping Interest. Silesian Manufactures. Yeovil.*

Flour. Wheat of a superior quality will produce more flour, which, without an extra demand for flour will lower the price of wheat, *Babbs* 3392–3396——Increased produce of flour in Huntingdonshire from weight of wheat being heavier than in 1833, *Bowyer* 3436——In Middlesex, *Sherborn* 4073–4076——Superior quality of wheat has produced a greater quantity of human food, *Fison* 12645——Capabilities of producing flour are increased, *Sanders* 6027——Quantity of flour consumed in the manufacturing districts amounts to nearly one-fourth of the Liverpool consumption, *Scott* 5094–5103——More wheaten flour eaten now than ever, *Sanders* 6296——Return of the quantity of flour ground by millers would be useful, but would not be an accurate test of consumption, *Sanders* 6982–6984——Quantity exported from America annually, *Hodgson* 6368——The American trade in flour might be superseded by a greater quantity if the manufacture allowed at Liverpool, *Fearn* 15260–15264——Flour must be made of the best wheat; a market could not be found for bad flour, *Hayes* 17323–17327.

See also *American Flour. Board of Trade. Bonded Corn. Casks. Hamburgh. Irish Corn*, 2. *Irish Flour. Price of Corn*, 6. *Statistics. Weight of Wheat.*

Flour Mills. Erection of flour mills has caused the exportation of flour from Ireland, *Brassington* 14781–14783; *Blacker* 15564, 15565.

Flying Crops. Bad effects of taking flying crops, *Oliphant* 11160, 11164.

Food. See *Bacon. Barley Bread. Bread. Consumption of Wheat. Flour. Irish Produce. Mutton. Necessaries of Life. Potatoes. Weight of Wheat.*

Foreign Barley. Admission of foreign barley, free of duty, would ruin farmers, *Cortis* 1872–1874——Some foreign barley malts well, *Bowyer* 3570–3572——Quality of foreign barley, *Scott* 5089–5093.

Foreign Corn. Quantity of foreign wheat imported 1829–1831, *Jacob* 107——Great quantity of foreign corn entered for home consumption 1828–1831; some at one shilling and some at two shillings and eight pence duty, *Ruding* 17084–17086——Corn being let out of bond by Mr. Canning in 1825, reduced the price of wheat one shilling a bushel on two market days, *Houghton* 1032——The measure of Mr. Canning's government, of admitting foreign corn in bond into consumption at a low duty in 1826, was not justified by the circumstances, but was a yielding to popular commotion, *Sanders* 7146–7151——Effect of

Foreign Corn—continued.

importations of foreign corn on depressing the price of British corn, *Sanders* 6264–6267——Imports of foreign corn 1829–1831 might have tended to increase produce in export countries, and to raise prices there which were depressed when the demand ceased, *Hodgson* 6351–6353——Import of foreign corn in 1831 meeting the good harvests 1833–1835 is felt at the present moment, *Calthrop* 7847–7849——Importations of corn in 1817 and 1818 were needed, but not those of 1819 and 1820, *Calthrop* 7931, 7932.

The imports which took place three years in succession did not increase foreign growth, there not being any prospect of the English market continuing, *Calthrop* 8023, 8024——High prices of corn in foreign markets, during an export here, *Hayes* 17448–17453——Extent of the import of foreign corn 1806–1813 and prices of corn; impediments from war prevented a larger importation; but for increased cultivation at home, manufacturers would have been starved, *Sanders* 6733–6748——How far a speculation among the holders of foreign corn may have caused the late rise and subsequent falls, *Hodgson* 6416–6424——Prices of Hamburgh and Dantzic wheat; expenses of freight; its quality, *Scott* 5076–5088——Opinion that the British farmer has an advantage over the foreigner from his proximity to the port of consumption of from 14*s.* to 16*s.* a quarter; shown by the rate of freight, insurance, commission and other charges on consignment of corn in 1831, from twenty-two foreign ports, *Sturge* 7226–7248, 7270–7276, 7299, 7300.

Extent that foreign labour would be substituted for British, in the event of lands being out of cultivation and deficient harvests supplied by foreign imports, *Sanders* 6854–6858——Excess of production of wheat in countries north of Europe watered by the Vistula, has diminished since 1828, *Jacob* 199–203——Corrected statement of the imports of wheat, rye, barley and oats, 1806–1813, *Sanders* 7155–7158.

Foreign corn imported is the surplus of Europe, *Bell* 12038——Raising the value of money may bring foreign corn in at half-price, *Muntz* 16377–16380——Supposed quantity of corn in the Baltic warehouses and bonded in England, *Ruding* 17163–17169, 17180–17184——Present quantity of corn in foreign warehouses is about the average, *Ruding* 17205——Extent to which orders have been sent out for foreign corn in consequence of the rise in price, *Ruding* 17279–17281——Quantities of foreign and colonial grain of various kinds brought into consumption in the United Kingdom, with the amount and average rates of duty charged thereon, *App. II. p.* 282——Quantity of wheat, barley and malt exported from and imported into Great Britain in twenty years, from 1740 to 1759 inclusive, showing the excess of each in each year, and the aggregate for the whole in the twenty years, *App. II. p.* 288.

See also *Baltic. Barbary. Barley*, 4. *Bavaria. Bonded Corn. Bullion. Canada. Clay Lands*, 5. *Corn Laws. Dantzic Wheat. Fixed Duty. Manufacturing Interests. Navy. Poland. Price of Corn* 1, 4, 6. *Produce of Corn. Prussia. Ships. Speculation*, 2.

Foreign Exchanges. See *Exchanges.*

Foreign Importation. Concurrence in the opinions expressed in Matthews' "Political Economy," as to the restrictions of importation in causing permanent improvements on land, *Sanders*, 7159, 7160.

Foreign Markets. Throwing open the foreign markets caused the depression of prices, Lord *Ashburton*, 17037.

Foreign Ports. See *Bonded Corn*, 3.

Foreign Trade. Advantages to the manufacturing interests of the foreign trade, *Burgess* 16069–16076.

See *Silver Standard.*

Forfarshire. Cost of working an acre of light soil, including interest of capital, *Robertson* 13826.

Forgery. The increase of forgery had a great effect in inducing the wish to return to cash payments, Earl *Radnor* 16990.

Four-course Husbandry. Counties in which it is pursued, *Houghton* 777–782——The four-course is the best system of husbandry that can be pursued, *Cortis* 1822, 1823; *Smallpiece* 3192——Leases are prepared for the four-course system, *Cooper* 5801, 5802——Farm at Lawhead cropped on the four-course system, *Howden* 9996–9997——On clay lands is injurious and cannot be maintained without a great deal of foreign manure, *Bell* 12044, 12045——Course of cropping heavy land on the four-course system of husbandry, *Parker* 12390–12392——Nature thereof; it is now getting more into use, *Blacker* 15369–15372.

See also *Cropping. Price of Corn*, 5.

France. Considerable quantity of wool exported from the county of Kent to France, *Brickwell* 485——Equalization of the duties would facilitate the exportation of wool to France, *Ellman* 4706–4716——Average price of wheat last year in France, which is lower than for the seventeen years previous, *Sturge* 7267——Quantity of money coined in France since the war; the productive industry in a state of prosperity, *Burgess* 16023–16027——

There

France—continued.

There may be an interest rising up in France and America similar to that in this country, of a monied interest in co-operation with government, acting as an incubus upon the productive interests of the country, *Burgess*, 16064, 16065——Mode adopted in France with regard to the use of both metals, Lord *Ashburton*, 17749–17752.

See also *Commercial Distress*.

Frean, George. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Corn-factor, miller and baker at Plymouth, 15252, 15253——Object of the petition from Plymouth relative to the grinding of flour, was in consequence of the biscuit-baking for the colonies having since 1825 been transferred into the hands of foreigners, 15254–15259——Quantity of flour in barrels exported annually from America to the British colonies, and quantity that comes to Liverpool for trans-shipment in British bottoms, which might be superseded by a greater quantity if the manufacture at Liverpool, 15260–15264——Exports from Hamburgh and Dantzic of flour and biscuit, and also divers articles of merchandize, which hurt the trade of Plymouth, 15264.

Manner in which millers have been hurt by the foreign export to the colonies; comparative advantages of the large over the small miller, 15264–15274——Examination upon the quantity of wheat proposed to be liberated and flour to be returned into bond for exportation, showing advantage to the agriculturist, 15274–15276——Reason why the agriculturists will not be injured by the bran coming into consumption under the proposed arrangement; extent to which it would affect the miller, 15276–15281——Objections to grinding the corn in bond, 15282–15285——Unsound corn as well adapted for the making biscuit as the best corn, 15285–15294——Detail of the advantages that would result from the proposed plan to the agriculturist, 15295.

Number of quarters of bonded corn at Plymouth at present, and price at which laid in, 15296, 15297——Comparative price of foreign wheat and flour in London and New York, 15298–15300——If either the grinding foreign corn, or the substitution of English for it allowed, English activity and energy will be able to compete with the sellers of flour at Dantzic or Hamburg, 15301——Board of trade do not object to grinding corn in bond; their objection is to the substitution, 15302——Witness's opinion not altogether unfavourable to the grinding corn in bond; impossible to injure the agriculturist by it, 15303–15309——Effect of the plan for substitution on averages and prices, and advantages to those having inferior corn, 15310–15329.

Speculations in foreign corn are when there is a probability of a bad crop in yielding, or when the quantities are likely to run low; causes of the want of speculation during the last four years, 15330–15333——Manner in which casks and staves might be made of English wood, if the West Indies supplied with flour from Great Britain 15334–15343——Disadvantages of the system of debentures, as proposed by the Liverpool petition, 15344–15347——Farmers are in favour of the Plymouth plan, and might easily be got to sign the petition, 15348–15350——Manner in which the competition in the biscuit trade could be maintained with Dantzic and Hamburg if foreign corn allowed out of bond, 15351–15356——Foreign corn may be ground in Canada, and sent here as their own produce at a reduced duty, 15357–15359——Petition of merchants and others interested in the grain trade at the port of Plymouth for allowing bonded corn to be delivered out to be ground and flour bonded, 15359.

Freeholders. Number of freeholders has diminished from depressed prices, *Bickerton* 8863–8865.

See also *Mortgages*.

Free Trade. See *Corn Laws*, 1. *Fixed Duty*, 1.

Freeland, Joseph. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Farming between 300 and 400 acres, seven miles from Chichester, Sussex, 14787–14790——Soil, a strong loam, drained at witness's expense, 14792–14797——Nature of the six-course system, 14798——Farming at a loss, attributed to the altered value of money, 14799–14800——Rent per acre, 14801–14804——Which was settled with wheat at 58*s.* per quarter and there has been no reduction, 14805–14807——Prices of other crops have not fallen in proportion to wheat, but the crops themselves have been bad, 14809——Extent of reduction of rent necessary, if other chrages reduced, 14814——Fifty-six shillings should be the minimum for wheat and that would not pay ten per cent., 14816——Condition of farmers is reducing, they have been losing their rent the last three or four years, 14818.

Labourers are not better off now than they were, as provisions are getting higher, 14820–14823——Alteration of the currency would raise prices and benefit the farmer; whether that would not be better than a reduction of rent, 14824–14837——Labourers were better off before Mr. Peel's Bill, 14838–14841——The farmer's poverty causes there to be less task work, 14842–14845——Wages being paid out of capital cannot be a state of prosperity for labourers likely to last, 14846–14850——Effect of Mr. Peel's Bill in 1819, and the subsequent issue of paper in 1822 on prices, 14855–14877——Statement of seasons and crops 1815–1835, 14878–14880——Price of spring crops, though being high, have not been sufficient to cover the deficiency of crops, 14881, 14882——Particulars as to the profit or loss on stock farming, 14883–14896——Complaints by tradesmen of farmers and labourers not spending money, 14897–14899.

Poor Law Bill will at first reduce wages, but by causing emigration will eventually raise

Freeland, Joseph. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

them, 14904–14909——Farmers are not so rich as they were twenty years ago or three years ago, 14910–14915——A sound increase in the currency would relieve the distress, 14916–14918——With wheat at from 36*s.* to 40*s.*, land could not be farmed at a profit, and there would be no rent, 14919–14922——Average acreable produce, 14923–14928——Price that would be remunerative for the different descriptions of produce, 14929, 14930——Abolition of the malt tax would be a benefit, and the re-imposition of the beer tax would be better, 14931–14935.

If prices rose very materially with a change in the currency rents would rise, but not with an average of 56*s.*, 14936–14939——Comparative prices of provisions as affecting the present condition of labourers, 14940–14945——Further evidence upon prices as affected by currency and seasons, 14947–14958——Demoralization occasioned by the beer shops; the Beer Act was the worst Act that ever passed, 14959–14962, 14968, 14969——Shopkeepers who made large profits from the poor are affected by the Poor Law Bill, 14962–14966.

Freight. Rate of freight of wheat from Dantzic to Hull, *Hodgson* 6504——Freight from the Baltic to Liverpool, *Hodgson* 6547, 6548——Rate of freight, commission and other charges from the Baltic, *Ruding* 17119–17129; *Hayes* 17347–17349.

See also *Foreign Corn. Santander.*

French Brandy. The duty on French brandy is three-fourths of the price, *Muntz* 16985, 16690.

Funds. See *Land.*

Furrow-draining. See *Clay Lands*, 8. *Draining. Farms*, 2. *Seasons. Turnips.*

G.

Game. In some places in Ayr the farmers are annoyed by game, *Brown* 12228.

Germany. Price of corn has not fluctuated so much as here; corn is only grown for consumption by higher classes, and for export, *Jacob* 39–41.

See also *Spain.*

Gilbert's Act. See *Workhouses.*

Gold. Difference between the market price and the mint price of gold in 1819, *Sanders* 6158——Effect of the depreciated currency in causing a rise in the price of gold, and why it did not rise so soon, or in the same ratio as other property, *Muntz* 16351–16359——The bank should be allowed to pay in gold at the market price; limit that should be put upon depreciation; trifling effect it would have upon existing contracts, *Muntz* 19421–19426——Causes which led to the introduction of gold instead of silver, and whether the difference in price between the two has not arisen since gold was chosen as the standard, Lord *Ashburton* 17656–17659——Prosperity 1823–1825 did not last, gold not rising with other commodities, *Muntz* 16410, 16411.

Comparison between gold and silver as marketable commodities, *Haggard* 16270, 16271——Standard price of gold and silver at different periods, from the time of William the Conqueror, showing the fluctuations occasioned by gold, *Haggard* 16314–16323——It will be found, in the next two years, there is not so much gold in the country as is desirable, it having been forced out by the joint stock banks, *Sanders* 7131——There is a great demand for gold from America, *Spooner* 15648–15651——Gold goes out as fast now as when one-pound notes were in use, and will all go if prices continue to rise, *Muntz* 16482, 16483——There is no difficulty in getting gold for circulation, it has supplied the place of one-pound and two-pound notes, *Langhorn* 7692–7695——There is always a steady demand for gold in this country, though not always for silver, *Calthrop* 8070.

Opinion that there has been a hoarding of gold to a moderate extent, from the circumstances of some guineas having been circulated latterly, *Boniface* 13256–13258——A bad harvest, or a war, will cause a drain for gold on the bank, *Spooner* 15680–15685——It is a greater advantage to the country than the bank, when there is a drain for gold from the contraction of the bank issues, *Haggard* 16225, 16226——Supposed quantity of gold in circulation, which acts as a dead weight, *Haggard* 16256–16259——Manner in which the law against the export or melting of coin acted as a great security to the bank with regard to its issues, Lord *Ashburton*, 17634–17642.

See also *Bank of England Notes. Branch Banks. Bullion. Cash Payments. Circulating Medium. Commercial Distress. Currency. Joint Stock Banks. Panic. Paper Currency. Price of Corn, II. Scotch Banking System. Scotch One-pound Notes. Silver Standard.*

Gold Standard. Evidence in favour of, *Hodgson* 6616–6656——Evidence relative to the gold standard being applied to Scotland and Ireland, *Hodgson* 6616–6656——The effect of extending the gold standard to Scotland and Ireland would be hardly distinguishable on prices, *Sanders* 7129, 7130——The sum paid by the country for the use of gold is for the security of property in a fixed standard, and is very wisely laid out, *Sanders* 7099–7100——Comparison between the standard of gold in 1797 and at present; its effect on the price of wheat, *Sanders* 6692–6718——Raising the present standard above that of

693

Gold Standard—continued.

1797, is an act of injustice which nothing can justify, *Langhorn* 9043, 9044——Manner in which prices ranging above the standard value causes the export of gold, *Burgess* 16002–16006, 16010, 16011——Advance of prices in 1818 could not last, being an advance on a gold standard which would prevent manufacturers competing with the continent, or the gold remaining in the country, *Muntz* 16394, 16395——Measure recommended for relief, is the bringing the gold standard in conformity with the debt, the taxation and the necessities of the country, *Muntz* 16464–16467——Effect of depreciating the gold standard six per cent. on prices, rents, mortgaged estates and wages, *Burgess* 16173–16188——Gold ought not to be called a standard of value, as a price never can be fixed for it that will keep it in the market, *Haggard* 16224.

Manner in which the gold standard tampers with itself, from the impossibility of keeping the relative values of gold and silver, gold being demanded abroad when above the standard price, and sent here when lower, *Haggard* 16237——Disadvantages of a gold currency from the facility of export, and consequent derangement of mercantile transactions, *Haggard* 16292–16297——Manner in which depreciating the standard would keep up prices here and lower those abroad, also showing the effect on exchanges, *Muntz* 16638–16650——Alteration of the gold standard that might occasion a higher range of prices, Earl *Radnor* 16721–16724——Evils of an alteration of the standard, or a forced issue of paper without it, Earl *Radnor* 16939-16946.

See also *America. Cash Payments. Silver Standard. Standard of Value.*

Gold and Silver Standard conjointly. Necessity for a joint standard of gold and silver; evils of having solely a gold standard, and removing the prohibition against exportation and melting, *Spooner* 15652–15673——Advantages of a joint standard of gold and silver, *Burgess* 16007–16009——Proposed per centage of depreciation in introducing a joint standard of gold and silver, *Spooner* 15717–15765——Fluctuations in both might take place if two standards existed; but speculations in one metal would not produce so much derangement as speculation at present, *Burgess* 16136, 16137——Further evidence upon the advantages of a conjoint standard, and upon the fluctuations in value of either metal, *Burgess* 16140–16154——No advantage derived in departing from the ancient standard of value of gold and silver, Earl *Radnor* 16754——Value of gold and silver coined at His Majesty's Mint in each of the six years from 1830 to 1835, *App. II. p.* 288.

See also *One-pound Notes. Silver Standard. Standard of Value.*

Goodman, Samuel. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Occupying 700 acres of land at Hurstpier Point, Sussex, and proprietor of the Brighton coach, 10990–10992——Estate considerably improved by draining, 10994–10996——Witness's condition as a farmer worse than in 1833, from the low price of wheat, 10997, 10998——Course of cropping, 10999——Acreable produce, 11000——Taking off the duty on clover seed would be beneficial to those who do not grow it, 11004–11006——Reduction of poor-rates, by finding employment in draining instead of relieving in money, before the introduction of the Poor Law Bill 11007–11010——Reduction since the introduction of that measure, 11011–11013——Where labourers not well off, it is their own fault in not saving; rate of wages and allowances for clothes, &c. 11014, 11015.

Condition of farmers, generally speaking, is poor; but little improvement of late years on their farms, 11016–11018——Amount of rent per acre on one farm which has not been reduced; loss in consequence; other farms of as good land at a less rent, 11019–11025——Landlord has not assisted in draining, 11023——Amount of rents have very little to do with the present distress, 11026——Houses and land should be equally rated at their rack rents, 11028–11030——Amount of county-rate, which falls heavy on the land, house property not being rated to it, 11031–11034——Amount of composition for tithe; agricultural tenants will be as well off under the present system as under any new one, 11035–11039——No land unoccupied there; would be no difficulty in getting tenants if there were, 11040, 11041——Opinion that the landed interest have generally sufficiently met their tenants with regard to deduction of rent, 11042–11046.

Description of draining pursued; difference between chalk and turf draining, 11047–11060——Amount paid for manure, but which would have been of no use but for the draining, 11061–11065——Sixty shillings a remunerating price for wheat, 11066–11068——No legislative enactment would benefit the agricultural interest particularly, 11069——Inequality of local taxation borne by shopkeepers over agriculturists, 11069——Removing the malt tax would not benefit the agriculturist, 11070——No want of protection against Irish produce, 11071——Irish labourers will be absolutely necessary to get in the harvests before many years, 11071——Amount of rent paid on different farms, and extent of acreable produce, 11075–11078——Witness has not decreased his breadth of wheat this year, though many farmers have, 11081, 11082——Course of cropping adopted by witness, and necessity for manure, 11083.

Government. Government should store corn in times of abundance, and let it out in times of scarcity, *Hall* 5002——Necessity for crushing unfounded expectations that Government can relieve without exertion by farmers, *Hall*, 5002——The Government and the Bank of England are almost identified in interest, *Burgess* 16067, 16068.

See also *Bank of England Notes. War*, 2.

Government Bills. Reduction of prices partly caused by the withdrawal of Government bills drawn by foreign countries during the war, and withdrawn after the peace, *Burgess* 16207–16214.

Grass Land:

1. *Increased produce of; necessity for a mixture of Grass and Arable; mode of cultivation, &c.*
2. *Extent to which the system of ploughing up Grass Land has been carried.*

1. *Increased produce of; necessity for a mixture of Grass and Arable; mode of cultivation, &c.*

Reduction in the price of near London, from hay being conveyed by the canals, *Morton* 3737, 3738——Rents on grazing lands lowered during the last ten years, *Ellman* 4545——Has paid better than arable, *Bowyer* 3640, 3641——[Denham, Bucks.] Rather a gain than loss thereon since 1833, *Morton* 3724——Principal part of the grass lands in Gloucestershire is on the banks of the Avon, *Crowther* 13296——Produce of grass has been increasing in Lincolnshire, *Iles* 7446–7448——But for the mixture of grass and arable land in Bucks, the farmers would be more distressed than they are, *Brickwell* 446——Necessity for a mixture of, with arable, to pay the expense of cultivation without rent on land producing 30 bushels of wheat per acre, and not then if other prices brought down to the level of wheat, *Brickwell* 437–450——No arable farm can be kept in condition without a considerable portion of grass, *Bell* 11915——Opinion that upon cold clay lands grass might be introduced with advantage, *Robertson* 13818——Mode of cultivation, *Atkinson* 5988–5990——Is sometimes manured with lime, *Brodie* 10497——Particulars as to the mode adopted of feeding cattle on grass land, and the period the land is kept in grass, *Robertson* 13797–13810——Particulars as to the cattle and sheep with which grass land stocked, and periods at which they are put on, *Smith* 15045–15065——Best mode of laying down land in grass; period at which it will be fit for sheep; and how long it will be before it is fit to feed cattle, *Shawe* 14370–14382.

2. *Extent to which the system of ploughing up Grass Land has been carried.*

Ploughing it up does not deteriorate the land, looking at the quantity of turnips produced, *Langhorn* 7719–7726——Very few landlords in Bucks would allow their grass lands to be ploughed up, when the farmers were already losing by ploughed lands, *Brickwell* 537——Land broken up in Gloucestershire during witness's first lease, and planted with flax, but during his second lease he has laid much down, *Crowther* 13343, 13344——Value of grass lands ploughed up in Lincolnshire is diminished in the market 10*l.* to 15*l.* an acre; during the war the tenant would pay a bonus for permission to plough up grass lands, *Calthrop* 8041–8047——Breaking up grazing land in Lincolnshire has been going on for the last twenty years, *Byron* 8431–8435——There has been no grass land ploughed up in Warwickshire within the last few years, *Umbers* 8546——It has been very improvidently ploughed up in the East Riding of York, *Howard* 5528——Allowing them to be ploughed up has been of great advantage to the tenants, *Howard* 5583——Are allowed to be ploughed up with a view to present relief by the tenant, and fear of reduction of rent by the landlord, *Howard* 5602, 5603——Distressed tenants have ploughed up old grass lands; tenants in Ireland are generally allowed to do what they please with their land, *Shawe* 14422–14427.

See also *Clay Lands*, 1, 5, 8. *Cropping*. *Inferior Lands*. *Pasture Lands*. *Price of Corn*, 6. *Rot*, 1. *Wool*, 2.

Grass Seed. Number of acres of seeds on grass land on a wold farm, *Iles* 7403–7407——Desirable to sow a large quantity of small seed for pasturage, *Iles* 7487–7489——Witness recommends white and yellow clover and cow grass upon very high lands, *Oliphant* 11132——Description of seed sown in laying down the land in grass, *Smith* 15038–15044.

Graziers. On inferior grass land or where the rot has taken place, the grazing farmer is as badly off as the arable farmer, *Cortis* 1781; *Ellis* 10859–10862——Are not suffering to the same extent as the occupier of clay lands, *Rolfe* 1403; *Parker* 12614——Distress of grazing farmers, *Burgess* 16084, 16085——The last year has been rather favourable for them, except where they have suffered from the want of grass, *Hancock* 11411——Grazing has not been a very good trade within the last two years, *Brickwell* 361——Grazing is better now than it has been for some time, *Houghton* 687——Grazing has paid well in the last two years, *M'Dougal* 14564——By grazing witness is enabled to pay a fair rent; impossible to reduce the expense of cultivation, *Brickwell* 390–396——There are no grazing farms in East Lothian, except in the mountains and in the Lammer Muir, *Howden* 10140——Bills drawn by graziers buying cattle at fairs, on their sale-masters, create a fictitious capital, *Brassington* 14785, 14786.

Greenwich Hospital Estates. Sale of in 1833, at about thirty years' purchase on the then rental, *Langhorn* 7727–7732.

Greenwich Hospital. Prices paid for provisions and household stores for the use of the Royal Hospital at Greenwich at various periods from 1790 to 1835, *App. III. p.* 560——Prices of various articles of food, clothing and household stores, bought for the use of the Royal Hospital at Greenwich, and of the rates of wages paid to artisans employed in that establishment from 1815 to 1835 inclusive, *App. II. p.* 284.

Grey, Lord. See *Fires*.

Grinding Act. See *Bonded Corn*.

695

Growth of Wheat.

1. *Comparative growth and consumption.*
2. *Comparative growth formerly and at present.*
3. *Increase in the quantity grown in the last three years.*
4. *Decrease in the quantity grown in the last year.*
5. *In Ireland.*
6. *In Scotland.*

1. *Comparative growth of consumption.*

Average growth, 1814–1824, a million quarters less than consumption, *Jacob* 8——Opinion that on an average of years England does not grow enough wheat for its own consumption, *Spooner* 15917——For the last two or three years England has grown sufficient for its consumption, *Ruding* 17194——In 1832 and 1833 there was an unusual extent of land sown with wheat; in 1834 and 1835 it rather diminished, and in 1836 there has not been so small a quantity sown with reference to consumption for any period in the last twenty or thirty years, *Hodgson* 6328–6331.

2. *Comparative growth formerly and at present.*

More land under culture of wheat now than twenty years ago, *Jacob* 76——More wheat grown than formerly, *Sherborn* 4020; *Scott* 5126–5128——Not more grown than some years back, taking heavy and light soils, *Houghton* 811——As much wheat grown on heavy and light lands as there used to be, *Rolfe* 1361–1364——More wheat has been grown in the place of barley, from barley having been so heavily taxed, *Stevenson* 13077–13078——Prices of wheat 1824–1831 caused lands to be cultivated that would otherwise have been employed to some other purpose, and which in some instances have occasioned losses, *Sturge* 7258——It would not be very materially contracted if the average price did not exceed 50*s.*, *Sanders* 6719——Further evidence upon the growth of wheat or barley according to the prices, *Sanders* 7039–7042——Growth of wheat greater during the last ten or twelve years, *Spooner*, 15692–15694——How far the increased growth and improved quality to be attributed to the present system, *Ruding* 17282–17285——Proportion of wheat to barley grown in Huntingdonshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire, *Bowyer* 3561–3563——Comparative statement of corn grown in several parishes in the county of Glamorgan at various periods, *David* 4307.

3. *Increase of the quantity grown in the last three years.*

Increase in the quantity of wheat sown in the last three years, *Sanders* 6298——In Cambridge, *Thurnall* 2315–2318——In Essex, *Batts* 3358–3360——In Huntingdonshire, *Bowyer* 3437–3525——In Lincolnshire, *Atkinson* 5886; *Sanders* 6038–6040——On cold lands in Shropshire, but not among farmers generally, *Bickerton* 8853, 8854——Increased growth per acre, *Scott* 5182–5187——In Huntingdonshire, *Bowyer* 3520——In Leicestershire, *Ellis* 10713, 10714——In Shropshire, *Bickerton* 8852–8856——Breadth of wheat not increased in Bucks, *Brickwell* 540; *Morton* 3722——In Glamorganshire, *David* 4301–4307——In Suffolk, *Cooper* 5801, 5802——Has diminished in Warwickshire, *Umbers* 8468, 8469——Witness has not decreased his breadth of wheat this year though many farmers have, *Goodman* 11081, 11082——Breadth of wheat greatly increased in Huntingdonshire, Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire, *Browyer* 3615–3619——Manner in which the low price of wheat will be a natural cause of more being sown in the weald of Sussex, *Boniface* 13207–13214.

4. *Decrease in the quantity grown in the last year.*

Smaller portion of land sown with wheat last year in consequence of low prices, generally, *Hodgson* 6328, 6331; *Sturge* 7259; *Oliphant* 11263; *Hancock* 11403; *Spooner* 15692–15694——Not so much as an eighth less in England, *Hayes* 17464–17467——In Bucks, *Brickwell* 316*, 317; *Houghton* 832——In Huntingdonshire, one-seventh, *Bowyer* 3466——In the eastern division of Kent, *Cramp* 9564——In Norfolk, *Fison* 12736, 12737——In Shropshire, *Bickerton* 8683——In Somersetshire, one-fourth, *Hancock* 11292——In Warwickshire, *Umbers* 8543——Not less sown than formerly in Bucks, *Cortis* 1769, 1771——In Essex, *Kemp* 1965–1968; *Parker* 11428——In Middlesex, *Tillyer* 4184——This year there will not be a supply equal to last year in the United Kingdom, *Calthrop* 7979–7983——In the next few years there will be a diminished growth of wheat, which will raise prices; and, if there should be an unproductive season, it will cause a necessity for large imports, *Umbers* 8555.

5. *In Ireland.*

Decrease in the growth of wheat in Ireland in the last year, *Brassington* 14598——One-third less, *Hayes* 17464–17467——Less proportion of wheat sown in Ireland than in England in 1835, *Hodgson* 6578——Parts of the province of Connaught that are unfavourable to the growth of wheat from the wet climate, *Clarke* 13853–13855——Evidence upon the growth of wheat; course of tillage and size of farms in Galway, Mayo, Sligo, and Leitrim, *Clarke* 13857–13869.

6. *In Scotland.*

Decrease in the growth of, in the last year, in Ayrshire, *Brown* 12343–12347——In Berwickshire, *Langhorn* 7590, 7591——In Dumfries, *Church* 13526——In East Lothian, *Howden* 10001–10003, 10097, 10098——In Haddingtonshire, one-tenth, *Brodie* 10339–

Growth of Wheat:—6. *In Scotland*—continued.

10341——In Perthshire, *Oliphant* 11276–11278——In Roxburgh, *M'Dougal* 14526–14528——Increase in the culture of wheat in the Lothians within the last thirty years, more particularly within the last ten, *Hope* 9821–9822——Increased growth of wheat and acreable produce in Haddingtonshire in the last twenty years, caused by better cultivation of the soil, *Howden* 10158–10164——Growth of wheat has been increasing in Ayrshire during the last twenty years, *Brown* 12343–12347——Increase in the quantity grown in Dumfries now and formerly, *Church* 13429——More wheat grown, and less barley and oats of late years in Dumfries, *Church* 13525.

See also *Barley, I.* 2, 3; *III.* 1, 3; *V.* 1. *Continent. Fixed Duty*, 5. *Ireland. Irish Corn*, 1. *Light Land. Population. Price of Corn*, 6, 9. *Produce of Corn. Sales of Corn. Statistics.*

Guildford. Witness would not take a certain farm near Guildford on a twenty years' lease at more than 7*s.* an acre, though he would be willing to give 200 years' purchase for it, *Smallpiece* 3159.

H.

Haggard, William Debonnaire. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Chief clerk of the Bullion Office of the Bank of England, 16218——Silver a more advisable basis for circulation and standard of value, 16223, 16224——Gold ought not to be called a standard of value, as a price never can be fixed for it that will keep it in the market, 16224——It is a greater disadvantage to the country than the bank when there is a drain for gold, from the contraction of the bank issues, 16225, 16226——Causes operating on price are supply and demand of the article, and supply and demand of money, 16227, 16228——Crisis of 1825 was from the foreign demand for gold, and not any home panic; the home crisis was from the want of accommodation for small change, 16229–16235——Manner in which the gold standard tampers with itself, from the impossibily of keeping the relative values of gold and silver, gold being demanded abroad when above the standard price, and sent here when lower, 16237.

Fluctuations in the currency and diminution of the circulating medium cause distress, 16238, 16239——Ineffectual demands by country bankers for gold and notes during the panic, their landed securities being of no avail, 16240–16242——If silver were made the standard of value, with a proper seignorage, allowing gold to find its own level in the market, it would act like magic here, and the bank would have more confidence in the circulation of their notes, 16243–16255——Supposed quantity of gold in circulation, which acts as a dead weight, 16256–16259——A similar stock of silver would not be required that there is of gold, 16260, 16261——Dealings of the bank in silver and loss on one transaction, as mentioned in the Bank Report, 16262–16265——The people during the panic wanted gold from the demand for it, and its being at a profit, 16266–16269.

Comparison between gold and silver, as marketable commodities, 16270, 16271——Whether there is likely to be a difficulty in procuring silver, 16272–16274——More sources from which silver may be obtained than gold, 16275——Price of silver, 16276–16278——Great stock of bullion in the bank in 1824, and more sovereigns coined just before the panic than there ever had been before, 16279–16283——Silver is the standard of value in every country but this, 16286–16288——Alteration in the value of the gold coin in America, 16289–16291——Disadvantages of a gold currency, from the facility of export and consequent derangement of mercantile transactions, 16292–16297——Form in which the precious metals come into this country, which is generally for profit, or to pay for goods we have over-traded in, 16298, 16299——Further evidence in favour of the silver standard, and the consequent security to the bank and the public, 16300–16313——Standard price of gold and silver at different periods, from the time of William the Conqueror, showing the fluctuations occasioned by gold, 16314–16323——If silver had been the standard, it would not have been in the power of the Bank of France to have deliberated upon assisting the Bank of England, as in 1825, 16324, 16325.

Hall, George Webb. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Farmer in Gloucestershire, quantity of land occupied by him; nature of the soil and rent paid for it, 4872–4889——Wages paid by witness, 4890–4893——Condition of labourers better now than formerly, 4891——Examination relative to the expenses incurred in, and the proceeds received from, cultivating witness's farms from 1824–1836, and result, 4894–4899——Witness's capital has been regularly increasing from the improvements made on the land, 4902, 4903——System of cultivation adopted by witness, 4904–4916——Nature of the soil, and expenses incurred in the proceeds received from the cultivation of witness's farm in Somersetshire from 1831–1836, 4922–4960——Value of improvements made by witness on this estate, 4949——Considerable loss sustained from farming with Merinos instead of an ordinary flock of sheep, 4953–4960——Amount of tithe on the two farms, 4961–4968——Average crop per acre of wheat and barley, 4965, 4966——Condition of large and small farmers in the vicinity of Bristol very much deteriorated from the depression of prices, 4969–4973——Supply of labourers has not exceeded the demand in witness's neighbourhood, 4974, 4975——Abatement of rents in witness's district not so general as in other parts of the country; great competition for farms, notwithstanding the depression, 4977–4979.

Hall, George Webb. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

(Second Examination.)—Expenses of cultivating land depends very much on the nature of the soil, 4982–4986——Condition and morals of the labourer very much improved by the progress of education, 4987–4990——Poor-rates considerably reduced about ten years since, 4991, 4992——Reducing the county-rate would be beneficial to farmers, 4993——Mode of assessment to the poor-rate very unequal, 4994——Insecurity of agricultural property the subject of great complaint, 4994——Crop of barley in 1834 extremely deficient, 4999——The importation of Irish produce, good harvests, the allotment of land to labourers, progress of good cultivation and improvements in farming the principal causes of the present low prices of agriculture, 4998–5000——Very desirable that a system of poor laws should be introduced into Ireland, 5001——Remedies suggested for the relief of the agriculturist; commutation of tithes; giving tenants an interest in improvements made; improvements in agriculture to be secured to individuals; a better system of agricultural statistics, 5002.

Labourers never so well off as at the present time, 5005, 5006——Task-work when carried to any extent is injurious to the character of the labourer, 5007–5011——Fifty-six shillings a remunerating price for wheat, 5012, 5013–5023——State of education in witness's neighbourhood, 5020–5022——Landed proprietors ought to have a better knowledge of the value of land, 5024–5026——Considerable quantity of Irish cattle sent to the Bristol market; great improvement in their breed, 5027, 5028——Irish corn generally sells at an inferior price to the English, 5031–5034——Further evidence respecting the introduction of poor laws into Ireland, and beneficial effects therefrom, 5035–5044——Statement of the average prices of English and Irish wheats in the Bristol market for 1833–1835; and average prices of the actual sales of all British wheat in the same market, 5045——Prices of wheat and bread for two years, 5045.

Hamburgh. Barley from there malts well, *Bowyer* 3570——Exports from Hamburgh and Dantzic of flour and biscuit, and also divers articles of merchandize, which hurt the trade of Plymouth, *Fearn* 15264——Prices of wheat and barley at Hamburgh during the years 1825 to 1835, *App. III. p.* 615.

See also *Barley, IV. Biscuits. Bonded Corn,* 3. *Foreign Corn.*

Hancock, John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Farmers in Somersetshire are worse off than they were in 1833, 11281–11283, 11301——Crops the last two years have been very good; that of 1834 the best for wheat, 11284–11286——Loss of turnips has prevented the price of cattle being remunerating, and has caused sheep and stock of all descriptions to be fed on hay and corn, 11289–11291——One-fourth less land sown with wheat this year, 11292——Growth of flax has increased in a district of 40 or 50 miles from Wellington and Tiverton, to Yeovil and Sherborne, 11293–11299——Principal remedies between landlord and tenant, 11302——If Ireland is to be considered an integral part of the country she should bear the same burthens as England, 11303——Fifteen per cent. reduction in rent since 1832, 11304–11306——With wheat at 5*s.* and meat at 4½*d.* per pound, no rent could be paid, and the land kept in cultivation, 11307——Small proprietors are but just able to carry on their farms, 11308–11310.

Amount of county-rates, and difficulty of levying them on small owners and occupiers, and small farmers, 11315–11317——It would be beneficial if they were paid out of the Consolidated Fund, 11318–11321——Poor-rates under 4*l.* to 6*l.* should be paid by landowners, 11323——Taking off the duty on clover-seed would be a disadvantage; foreign seed not so good as English, 11326–11335——Low price of wheat has been caused by the increased use of potatoes among both lower and higher classes, 11339–11345——The high prices during the war were one of the worst things that could have happened to the farmer, 11346–11349——How far a change in the currency caused the subsequent reduction, 11350–11359——Price of barley tolerably fair; state of crops, 11360–11364——High price of meat caused by deficiency in the turnip crop, 11367, 11368——With wheat at 64*s.* there would be no complaints among farmers, 11372——Rents have not been sufficiently lowered according to prices, 11378–11383——Labourers are well off when employed, but they wish for wheat at 8*s.*, 11386——If prices raised, wages would be increased, 11388–11390.

Farming tradesmen have not reduced their charges, 11391–11394——Rent of allotments; how far there is an evil in it; extent of allotments, 11395–11402——Great competition for farms; those re-let have been let at reduced rents, 11404–11406——Objections to leases by landlords while present prices continue, 11407, 11408——Farmers in Somersetshire are worse off than in 1833, 11409, 11410——Present price of wheat in Taunton market, 11413–11415——Rise in price will not be beneficial to those farmers who have sold out, 11419–11421——Advantage of draining; sometimes done at the joint expense of landlord and tenant, 11424–11431——Commutation of tithe would do away with a great deal of unpleasant feeling, 11432–11434——Whether the averages of the proposed tithe bill are not too high; parties paying in kind like the bill; those under composition do not; amount per cent. for collection; the measure should be compulsory, 11435–11455——Irish produce affects the English grower, particularly by supplying the Welsh markets, 11456——Introduction of poor laws into Ireland would cause it to consume a greater quantity of its own produce, 11457–11466——How far Scotch produce affects England; rents and wages are high in Scotland, 11467–11471——Advantages of growing flax; employment of labour; remunerating price; wheat grows well after it;

Hancock, John. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

not so impoverishing as potatoes, 11472–11482——Manufacturers find English flax better than foreign, 11484——Flax might with profit be generally introduced throughout the good lands of England, 11485——The growth has increased during the last three years, 11487——Taking off the duty on foreign flax caused less to be grown; difference in the mode of preparing it, 11488–11492.

HARVESTS:

1. *State of Harvests in different years.*
2. *State of Harvests since* 1832.
3. *Expected crop of* 1836.
4. *Effect of seasons on Harvests.*
5. *Effect of good Harvests on price.*

1. *State of Harvests in different years.*

Sources of information as to the state of harvests, *Jacob* 162–176——Comparative state of those of 1831–1835 with 1820–1827, *Jacob* 179–181——Opinion of Mr. Hodgson of Liverpool, that harvests 1828–1832 were deficient; whether his opinion at variance with witness's, *Jacob* 188–192——Bad harvest of 1816 caused Parliament in the spring of 1817 to take measures for general relief, *Jacob* 238——State of the harvests from 1809–1825, *Scott* 5115–5125——Crops of 1822–1828 were rather short, *Sanders* 6927——State of crops in Middlesex, 1823–1828, *Tillyer* 4222–4243——In Glamorganshire, 1828–1835; *David* 4437–4441——State of crops, 1830–1835, *Sturge* 7170–7180——Abundant harvests, 1832–1834, and bad harvests, 1828–1831, *Howden* 10011–10026——Bad state of harvests and deficient crops in 1816 and 1817 in Scotland, *Brown* 12374–12379——State of the harvests in 1820 and 1821; *Boniface* 13216–13219——Comparative state of harvests and farming and prices from 1822, *Burnett* 8280–8290——In the last seven years there has not been an average crop on witness's farm in Essex, *Kemp* 2221–2228——For the last seven years the crops in Essex have been fair average crops for the district, *Page* 2824–2827.

2. *State of Harvests since* 1832.

Opinion that excess of harvests 1833–1835 over consumption is only founded on supposition, *Jacob* 193–196——There have been three or four very abundant harvests in succession, *Bell* 11891——Five good harvests, *Jacob* 84–90——Produce of the last three harvests rather above the average, *Jacob* 9–12; *Brickwell* 476, 477; *Sanders* 6024, 6025; *Hodgson* 6325–6327; *Byron* 8389, 8390; *Cramp* 9483; *Stares* 11535–11542; Lord *Ashburton* 17597——Crop 1832 not more than an average, but equal to consumption, *Hodgson* 6574–6577——Crop of 1833 very little more than an average, *Houghton* 997–1003——Was deficient in quantity and quality, *Scott* 6066–5072——Not more than average, but equal to consumption, *Hodgson* 6574–6577——Above, *Calthrop* 7786, 7787——Crop of 1834 very little more than an average, *Houghton* 997–1003——Was more than an average, *Thurnall* 2315, 2319–2323; *Scott* 5066–5072; *Calthrop* 7786, 7787——Extent to which it was very little more than an average, *Ruding* 17172, 17173.

Crop of 1835 not an average, *Houghton* 997–1003; *Thurnall* 2315, 2319–2323; *Smallpiece* 2864–2867; *Calthrop* 7786, 7787——Was fully an average, but not equal to consumption, *Hodgson* 6574–6577——Equal to four average years, *Fison* 12644——Was more than an average in some parts of Shropshire, *Bickerton* 8842——Average crops of wheat per acre in 1834, *Kemp* 2052–2056——How far last year an average on the different descriptions of grain, *Morton* 3652, 3653——Extent of wheat and barley crops of 1833 and 1834, *Cramp* 9483–9485——But for the great crop of 1834 the country would now be in a situation to require importation, *Hodgson* 6404–6408——Crops in the wold lands for the last three harvests have been very abundant and proportionably so on the clay lands, *Iles* 7346–7350, 7543, 7544——They have during the last three years been particularly favourable in the neighbourhood of Spalding, *Calthrop* 8127, 8129——Crops the last two years have been very good, that of 1834 the best for wheat, *Hancock* 11284–11286.

3. *Expected crop of* 1836.

Crop of wheat does not look so favourable this as in former years, *Ellman* 4767–4776——Present prospect of the harvest of 1836 very unfavourable, *Sanders* 6859——State of the next harvest depends on the weather, *Umbers* 8544——The harvest of the present year is supposed to be late, with a deficient crop, on poor soils, *Hayes* 17468–17470——Prospect of crops in the Isle of Thanet very fair, but from Dover to Canterbury the prospect is very bad, *Cramp* 9563——Nature of the crop will always be indicated by the supply at market, *Sanders* 6899–6908.

4. *Effect of seasons on Harvests.*

Improvement in agriculture, as well as the state of the weather, has caused the succession of five good harvests, *Jacob* 84–90——State of the weather during harvests of 1833 and 1834, *Sturge* 7186–7188——Increase of wheat has been from the bounty of the seasons in the last three years, *Langhorn* 7589, 7590——Good crops since 1833 have been partly from good management, and partly the result of seasons, *Burnett* 8263, 8264——Good state of crops during the last four years principally from favourable seasons, *Hope* 9637–9644.

5. *Effect*

HARVESTS:—continued.

5. *Effect of good Harvests on price.*

Succession of five good harvests is one cause of the low price of wheat, *Jacob* 94—— If price is regulated by supply, an abundant harvest would tend further to diminish price, *Kemp* 2063——Improved crops have caused farmers to be better off than three years ago, *Kemp* 2097–2107——Effect of good crops of 1834 and 1835 in reducing the price of wheat, *Page* 2713–2715——Farmers in favour of good harvests with low prices than higher prices and scanty crops, *Howard* 5388–5390——Increased crop not sufficient to pay the decreased value of corn, *Byron* 8391——Abundant harvests in Leicestershire have for the last two or three years made up for deficiency in price, *Ellis* 10709–10712 ——Increased quantity of wheat from two extraordinary seasons has made farmers better off than in 1833, *Byron* 8417–8422——Abundant seasons bringing low prices are disadvantages to farmers with money-rents, *Hope* 9856–9862——Advantage to witness, with a maximum corn-rent, of an abundant season, *Howden* 10099–10107——A bad harvest would have the effect of raising the price of wheat, *Spooner* 15602–15605.

See also *Agricultural Distress*, 1. *Barley, I.* 1, 2. *Continent. Foreign Corn. Gold. Growth of Wheat*, 4. *Irish Labourers. Price of Corn*, 1, 6, 8, 11. *Produce of Corn. Quality of Corn. Reaping Seasons. Spring Crops. Statistics. Stock of Corn on Hand. Survey of Crops.*

Hay. Price of last year in Bucks pretty good, but the harvest was deficient, *Brickwell* 411 ——In purely agricultural districts covenants are made that hay shall not be carried off the premises, but exceptions are made in the neighbourhood of London and of large towns, *Houghton* 908–911——Good price for, last year in Bucks, but is now reduced, *Morton* 3724——Very little used in Haddington, *Brodie* 10275.

See also *Canals. Grass Lands*, 1.

Hayes, John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Principles of the Grinding Act of 1824, and impossibility of committing frauds under it, 17294–17303 ——Objections to grinding corn in bond, and to bonding mills, 17303, 17304——Advantages that would result to the agriculturist from the renewal of the Grinding Act by allowing the export to the West Indies, &c. during the period the Baltic ports are closed, and also in preventing ships victualling in foreign ports 17305–17309——Advantage of the Liverpool plan of debentures over the renewal of the Grinding Act, and in what way it would benefit the consumer and agriculturist, 17311–17315——Price of bran, and by what regulated, 17316–17322——Under the Act flour must be made of the best wheat, a market would not be found for the bad flour, 17323–17327.

Mercantile marine are victualled with foreign corn, which is enabled to be done under a customs regulation, 17328–17338——There should not be a limit placed on the price at which corn should be liberated under debenture, 17340–17342——Opinion in favour of a fixed duty of 8*s.*, 17343–17357——Also a fixed duty of 5*s.* for barley, 17358–17363 —— Quantity of corn imported in 1830 and 1831, at a low rate of duty, 17364–17369 ——With the fixed duty of 8*s.* wheat would eventually not average under 50*s.* per quarter 17370–17374——Prices of Dantzic wheat, and to what extent it would be affected by a constant demand from the country, 17375–17391——The present corn laws are of a prohibitory nature in periods of plenty, and cause a high price to be paid in periods of scarcity; manner in which they have deceived farmers as to price, though they caused improved agriculture here, and diminished the quantity of corn grown abroad, 17392–17435——Land that would be thrown out of cultivation under witness's system of fixed duties might be employed in grazing, 17436–17444.

Imports of Irish wheat have tended to reduce prices since 1828, 17445–17447—— High prices of corn in foreign markets during an export here, 17448–17453——Under the present system, barley from abroad principally comes for distillation and feeding cattle; its heated state renders it unfit for malting, 17456–17463—— One-third less wheat sown in Ireland, but not so much as an eighth less in England, 17464–17467——Harvest of the present year is supposed to be late with a deficient crop on poor soils, 17468–17470——If there is a deficient harvest and a deficient supply from abroad there will be a great rise in price, and the corn laws may be placed in jeopardy, 17473, 17474——Comparison between a bounty on export during low prices, and the system of a fixed duty, 17475–17480——Further evidence in favour of a fixed duty over the present corn laws in the event of a deficient crop, 17481–17494——A fluctuating duty is beneficial to the corn factor, and injurious to the public, 17495–17498—— Bread being of a better quality is relatively higher than the price of corn now than within the last 150 years, 17499–17501.

Heath Land. Increased cultivation of heath land; expense per acre and assistance given by the landlords, *Walker* 10654–10658——In 1806 witness's farm in Dumfries was a heath with moor-game upon it, but was limed and drained by witness, and great crops of oats, turnips and wheat are now obtained from it, *Church* 13412–13436——Witness's success has caused tenants adjoining to cultivate moor-lands, and some of them with short leases, *Church* 13498–13503.

Heavy Land. Estimated expense of cultivating heavy land, *App. III. p.* 545.

Heavy Lands. See *Clay Lands.*

Hemp. Average produce per acre of femble hemp and seed hemp, *Calthrop* 7825.
See also *Flax. Shipping Interest.*

Hetherington, William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Surveying-general Examiner of Excise, 9203——Farmers being allowed to malt their own barley would not be practicable consistently with the protection of the revenue; their being compelled to take out a license, and have their premises put under the excise, would increase the number of officers, 9206–9209, 9217, 9227–9233——Where the rate of duty is less the inducement to fraud is less, 9211——The excise do not suppose they get all the duty, 9212——In particular years barley will not malt; many applications this year for a return of duty on that account, 9213, 9214——Regulations of the excise do not make maltsters liable to that failure, 9215——In some states of the weather the malt may require water sooner than the regulations allow, 9216——Opinion upon the alteration of the allowance to maltsters in 1828; complaints by maltsters working for the London market that they cannot make an equal measure of malt for which they are charged with duty, 9219, 9220——Complaints by maltsters in Hertfordshire, Essex, Norwich and Ipswich of duty being paid on more malt than was made, 9221–9226——Three barrels of beer are brewed from a quantity of malt from which two were made formerly, consequently there is less malt used and more hops, 9235–9241.

Hides. Price of hides has increased since the tax on leather taken off, *Ellman* 4804.

Highway Laws. They are very oppressive, *Howard* 5538.

Highway Rate. Amount thereof in the Isle of Thanet, *Cramp* 9522——Effect of alteration with regard to the highway-rate, and whether more beneficial than the old system of statute duty, *Parker* 12481–12500.

Hodgson, David. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Produce of harvests 1832–1835 were above an average, 6325–6327——In 1832 and 1833 there was an unusual extent of land sown with wheat; in 1834 and 1835 it rather diminished, and in 1836 there has not been so small a quantity sown, with reference to consumption, for any period in the last twenty or thirty years, 6328–6331——The quality of corn of 1834 and 1835 was good, and as much as the average weight of previous years, 6332, 6333——Cause of there being a less importation from Ireland into Liverpool last year, 6334——The only imports of wheat of late years have been from Canada, and which have been but trifling, 6335——Notwithstanding the use of wheat for fattening cattle, and a greater quantity used in the manufacturing districts, there is still a sufficiently abundant supply to account for the depression in price, 6336–6338——The returns of corn sold, 1824–1835, is one that no inference can be drawn from that can be relied on, as the returns made depend entirely upon the state of speculation in the market, 6341, 6342.

The want of exciting tendency to elevation in prices has during the last few years prevented speculation in corn, 6343, 6344——If a rise in price takes place, from a knowledge that the stock on hand is reducing, and that there is less wheat sown, the rise will be in favour of the agricultural interest to the extent of from four to six millions sterling, whilst the other interests of the country would have no cause of complaint from their previous prosperity, 6345——Stock in hands of farmers is a full stock, though the crop of last year was very deceptive, the produce being less than was expected on thrashing out, 6346, 6347——Large capital occasioned by a rise in price let loose upon the purchase of British corn would be of greater advantage to those farmers with capital, 6348, 6349——Imports of foreign corn, 1829–1831, might have tended to increase produce in export countries and to raise prices there, which were depressed when the demand ceased, 6351–6353.

Advantage of a fixed duty of 8*s.* in rendering the price more certain and steady at home, and in causing a regular supply from the Baltic, and decreasing the supply from America, 6355–6358——Advantage to the agriculturists of adopting the prayer of the petition from Plymouth for allowing corn in bond to be ground into flour for exportation, 6362–6371——Advantages of the plan proposed in the memorial from Liverpool to the Board of Trade for allowing flour to be exported on debenture, and for releasing an equivalent in bonded corn, according to the state of the market, 6372–6373——A fixed duty would be better, 6374——The present system of corn laws tends to encourage gambling in foreign corn, by lowering prices in times of plenty, and unnaturally increasing them in times of dearth, 6375–6379.

Want of speculation in home grain attributed to long-continued depression of prices, and continued falling markets, caused by good seasons and extended cultivation, 6380–6385——Evidence as to the manner in which the extent of the acreable produce of the kingdom is ascertained, and extent of the crops, 1832–1835, 6386–6402——But for the great crop of 1834 the country would now be in a situation to require importation, 6404–6408——Depression of price since 1833 mainly attributable to the abundant harvest of 1834, the consumption having also increased, 6409–6412——Fall in price at the latter end of 1834 caused by the weight of that harvest being then felt, 6413–6415——How far a speculation among the holders of foreign corn may have caused the late rise and subsequent fall, 6416–6424——Great dislocation of property from one end of the kingdom to the other, caused by Peel's Bill of 1819, 6425–6431——A fixed duty of 8*s.* would be more beneficial to the consumer and farmer than to the corn factor, 6432–6444.

Effect of the Plymouth plan in causing greater foreign importation, and thereby increasing the capital of the country, and the value of every commodity in it, 6450–6453——
Advantage

Hodgson, David. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

Advantage of the Liverpool plan, and opinion against placing a limit on the price of corn for allowing debentures to be brought into the market, 6454-6460——The supply is less equal to the demand of the population than it was twenty years ago, 6461-6467——The quantity of foreign corn in bond only operates in the British markets when price is high, 6469-6473——If either of the plans for grinding corn for exportation were carried into effect, it might induce dealers to hold foreign corn, but it ought not to create alarm in the minds of the farmers, 6474-6475——Whether the opinion, that a fixed duty on corn would cause less fluctuation in price, is borne out by the fluctuations in the price of wool and tallow, under a fixed duty, 6476-6478——Whether the bonded corn is the surplus of exporting countries, or whether, under a fixed duty, other countries would not grow corn to send here, 6479-6487——Effect of the Liverpool plan being acted on under a fixed duty, by giving a bounty to the exported, in the event of low prices, 6488-6495——Advantage of a fixed duty in causing a less fluctuation in price, 6496-6500——Whether a fixed duty of 8*s.* would not cause foreign wheat to be sent here cheaper than it could be grown in England, 6501-6510——Although the effects of the bill of 1819 were not foreseen, its disastrous effects have passed by, with the exception of some fixed charges on land; but if that bill were now reversed, a similar dislocation of property would take place, 6511-6519.

A statistical return of the acreage of land under cultivation of corn crops would be of great national advantage, and might be made through returns of the parish overseers, 6520-6525——How far capitalists have, within the last ten or twelve years, invested money in land, and caused improvements to be made, which has added to the productive power of the land, 6526-6528——Quantity of flour imported from Ireland has increased; it would require extra preparation for exporting to distant markets, 6531-6533——If free from fraud the landed interest could not suffer by the Plymouth plan, the only risk would be the chance of fraud, 6535, 6536——Whether a fixed duty could be maintained under a great rise in the price of corn, 6537-6542, 6550——Greater fluctuations in the price of corn on the continent than here, though the prices do not rise above those in our markets, 6543-6546——Freights from the Baltic to Liverpool, 6547, 6548——The other interests of the community could bear a rise in price of 15*s.* to 20*s.* a quarter, 6552, 6553——Price per quarter at which wheat can be grown, 6554-6557——Manner in which the price of produce affects the bargains between landlord and tenant, 6558-6565——Probably poor soils could not be cultivated to advantage with a fixed duty of 8*s.*, 6568, 6569——Agricultural labourers would be better off with a lower price of wheat, 6570-6573——Crops of 1832 and 1833 were not more than an average, but were equal to the consumption; that of 1835 was fully an average, but not equal to the consumption, 6574-6577——Less proportion of wheat sown in Ireland than in England in 1835, 6578.

Calculation as to the proportions of duty the different sorts of grain should bear to one another, 6579-6582——Bonded corn deadens the market under the present system more than if it could be admitted at all times; but the apprehension mostly exceeds the reality, 6583-6585——Price of wheat at Dantzic will always be something about the expense of transit below the price in England, 6586-6589——There is no such thing as a remunerating price applicable to a whole county varying in soil, 6592-6593——Prices of wheat in 1815, and in 1824 to 1832, and how affected by the change from war to peace, and by the currency, 6595-6597——Effect of Peel's Bill was universal, affecting every species of property, whether moveable or landed, 6598, 6599——Disastrous effect of going back to a depreciated currency, 6600, 6601——Manufacturing interest prosperous, 6602——Apprehension of danger from joint stock banks, 6603——Further evidence as to a rise in the price of wheat and other grain, 6604-6615——Evidence against a rise of prices from a depreciated currency; in favour of the gold standard, and relative to its application to Scotland and Ireland, 6616-6656——Purchase of corn in 1833 with an expectation of a rise in price, which was disappointed by the crop of 1834, 6657-6660——Supposed price at which wheat would be imported from Dantzic under a fixed duty, 6661, 6662——Opinion, that under a free trade there would be a regular supply from the Baltic, 6663-6667——It would be unfair to give either manufacturers or agriculturists any especial protection, 6668-6672——A fixed duty of 8*s.* might be maintained, except under circumstances of very rare occurrence, 6673-6680.

Holland. Interest taken by the King of Holland in extending production and facilitating commerce, *Burgess* 16056, 16057.

Hope, Robert. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Resident at Fanton Barnes, near Haddington, occupying 520 Scotch or 650 English acres, 9629, 9630——Soil heavy, upon a close retentive subsoil, 9631——Much deep draining has been done in the last twenty, but within the three last years furrow-draining has been used, for which allowance is intended to be made by the proprietor, 9633-9636, 9781, 9782——Good state of crops during the last four years, principally from favourable seasons, 9637-9644——Lands in East Lothian let chiefly on lease for nineteen or twenty-one years, 9645, 9646. At least two-thirds of the county are now converted into corn-rents, 9647, 9648, 9656——Regular farm-servants are paid in kind; rate of allowance, 9649-9655——Where money-rents have been fixed twelve years ago, and have not been reduced, the farmers are suffering, 9657-9662——Course of cropping, 9663-9665——Number of horses used in ploughing; value of ploughing per acre, 9666-9672——Amount of local charges; no public burthens to

Hope, Robert. (Analysis of his Evidence—)*continued.*

complain of, 9673–9677——Advantages of thrashing machines; cost price, and quantity thrashed per diem; cost of coal for those worked by steam, 9679–9690——Number of hinds and day-labourers employed by witness, 9693——Current annual expenses on a farm at Fanton Barnes, Haddington, 9694–9704——Farm has been improving under good management for the last four years, 9705–9711——Fifty shillings for wheat considered remunerating, 9712.

Present prices in Haddington market, 9713–9715——Mode of striking the fiars at Haddington, 9716–9729——English clover-seed fetches a higher price than foreign, 9730–9732——Advantage to the farmer from removing the duty on clover-seed, 9733–9735——Present corn laws have not been beneficial from its being expected that they would have kept up prices to 70*s.* or 80*s.*, 9737, 9738, 9767–9773, 9863–9867——Favourable seasons and abundant crops have reduced prices, and not the corn laws, 9739–9742——Reducing the scale at which foreign corn is imported, would be beneficial to the payers of corn-rents, 9743–9747, 9774–9780——Ten per cent. less corn sown in witness's neighbourhood than last year, 9748–9750——Many applications for farms that are out of lease, 9751–9755——How far corn-rents are equivalent to former money-rents, looking at the declining prices for the last few years, 9756–9761——Difference very slight between the rent paid in 1793 and at present on witness's farm, 9762–9764——Arable land of East Lothian is above the average arable land of Scotland, 9765, 9766——How far there was an increase, on a capital of 3,000*l.*, between 1801 and 1814; on the same capital, with a money-rent, between 1820 and 1834; the parties can hardly be solvent, 9783–9788——With wheat at 40*s.* upon an average of years, and good crops, farmers might manage, 9793–9798——Further evidence upon the acreable produce in wet and dry seasons, 9799–9805——Effect of wet and dry springs upon limestone lands, 9806–9811——Improvements in cultivation of lands in East Lothian in the last thirty years, 9812–9814——Further evidence upon rent, produce and expenses of farming, 9815–9820.

Increase in the culture of wheat in the Lothians within the last thirty years, more particularly within the last ten, 9821, 9822——The rot in England did not affect the price of sheep in Scotland, 9823–9831——Price of red and white wheat in Haddington market, 9832–9834——Being within twenty miles of Edinburgh is advantageous, though both wheat and meat now come to the London market, 9837–9840——Fall in price in 1822 occasioned by good seasons and a large import previously, 9841–9845——Fall in price in 1815 occasioned by good seasons, 9847, 9848——Effect of changes in the currency in raising prices during the war, and reducing them afterwards, 9849–9855——Abundant seasons bringing low prices are disadvantages to farmers with money-rents, 9856–9862——One-pound notes in Scotland more convenient than gold, and cheaper to those that issue them, 9868–9870——Reason why they are safe for Scotland, but would not be in England, 9871–9875——Acreable produce of wheat, barley and oats upon the Scotch acre, 9876–9879——Particulars as to the six-course system adopted in Scotland, 9880–9884——Rent paid in 1793 on witness's farm; improvements in draining and liming that have taken place since, 9885–9897——Improvements in farm buildings, 9898–9901——Amount laid out in furrow-draining, which would not have been done had there not been a lease, 9902–9905——Sums laid out in rape, cake and lime, 9907–9918——Cost per acre of draining during the last and present lease, 9919–9924——Landlords' incomes reduced under a system of corn-rents with low prices, 9925–9929——Farmers who have had high money-rents have been much reduced in circumstances within the last twenty years, 9932–9934——How far farming tradesmen's bills have been reduced, 9935, 9936——Harvests could not be got in without the assistance of the strangers who come from Ireland, the Highlands, Edinburgh and Glasgow, 9937–9941——The scythe and sickle have been superseded in Scotland, by a large smooth hook, for getting in the harvest, 9946–9957.

Hopetoun, Earl of. The late Earl of Hopetown let all his lands by corn-rents, *Brodie* 10436.

Hop Farmers. See *Malt Tax,* 3.

Hop Gardens. Mode adopted of draining hop gardens, *Boniface* 13836–13841.

Hops. The growth of, is very partial in Surrey, *Smallpiece* 3112——Consumption of hops has doubled within the last thirty years, while malt has remained stationary, *Dunlop* 9202.

Horn Buttons. The horn button trade in Birmingham was a very extensive trade formerly, but has fallen off, *Muntz* 16637.

Horner, Mr. If the measures proposed by him and rejected by the House had been carried, the war must undoubtedly have stopped, and the whole monetary system would then have been broken up, *Spooner* 15688.

Horse Tax. Farmers' horses pay none, *Jacob* 278——Repeal of taxes on horses and servants would cause a greater consumption of agricultural produce, *Rolfe* 1629.

Horses. Reduction of taxes on horses would be relief to the farmer, *Sherborn* 4043——Sometimes fed on refuse barley steeped but not dried, *Sherborn* 4082——Price paid by witness for his working horses, *Howden* 10214, 10215——Witness has not employed a less number of horses on his farm in consequence of draining his lands, *Crowther* 12788.

See also *Malt Meshes. Ploughing.*

Houghton, John. (Analysis of his Evidence, &c.)—Farmer and receiver of rents at Sunning Hill, Berks, and at Dinton, Bucks, 671, 672——Reduction of rents in Buckinghamshire partly from low price of farming produce as applicable to grazing farms, 679–691——Distress on clay lands from low price of wheat is greater than on turnip and barley or grass lands, 692–694——Capital of tenants on heavy clay lands diminishing 697–700——Commutation of tithe, free use of barley for cattle or malting and reduction of assessed taxes, proposed as a means of relief, 701–707, 750——A well-regulated system of poor laws in Ireland would benefit that country and this, 708, 709, 750——Comparative condition of farmers 1822 to 1830, 711–714——Farmers on heavy clay land bearing twenty bushels per acre have not been prosperous, 715–724——Light lands have been better off in consequence of the rot causing wool to fetch a remunerating price, 725–749——Farmers have been prosperous under tithe, and when the malt tax, county-rate and assessed taxes were higher, 751–760——Paper currency caused high prices; it would have been better not to have returned to gold so soon, but it would be a great evil to return to a paper currency, 761–775.

(Second Examination.)—Counties in which the four-course system of husbandry is pursued, 777–782——Proportion the price of other grain bears to that of wheat, 784–788——Preference to having 7*s.* a bushel for wheat, with rent 20*s.* an acre, and other charges in proportion, than having wheat 5*s.* a bushel, and land, land rent, &c. free, 792——Corn-rents not a good way of adjusting rent; Act of 18 Elizabeth under which they were established, 793–796——Malting free of duty would increase the growth of barley, 797–802——Not more wheat grown than some years back, taking heavy and light soils, 811——Wheat does not turn out so well this harvest as the two preceding ones, 813.

Poor Law Act has reduced rates and benefited the condition of the poor, 814, 815——County-rate falls heavier in some counties and parishes than it does in others; proportion to rental, 816–821——The low price of wheat has caused it to be used for feeding horses and pigs, 822–829——Less wheat sown this year, farmers not considering it worth growing, 832——Barley will not maintain its price unless wheat rises; difficult to account for the disproportion in price between barley and wheat, 833–837, 845——Wages are at present disproportioned to the price of produce, owing to the railroads and the Poor Law Act causing a rise, 848–856——Land is deteriorating from want of labour upon it; more would be employed if prices were remunerating, 857–862——Good wheat was dear in 1816, 865–871——Farmers with good security can obtain money with as great facility now as formerly, evils of the rate of interest being as high now as when produce was dearer, 874–894, 951–952——The farmer would be relieved by being allowed to raise money on his corn in hand, that corn not being liable to distress for rent by the landlord, 899–902, 907——Extent to which farming tradesmen's bills have been reduced, 903–906, 912–921——In purely agricultural districts covenants are made, that hay shall not be carried off the premises, but exceptions are made in the neighbourhood of London and of large towns, 908–911——The practice of changing seed and buying seed wheat not so much acted on as it ought to be, 922–927——Complaints by tradesmen that the payment of rents causes their bills not to be paid, 928–931——There have been periods when rents have been paid better than now, 932–936——Difficult to ascertain the extent to which wheat has been used for feeding cattle and stock, 937–943.

Further evidence as to the proportion the price of barley should bear to that of wheat according to the soil and cost of growth, 944–950——Distress of farmers since the panic of 1825, 954–956——Steady prices most beneficial to the farmer, 957–962——Rent cannot be paid on heavy wet lands with wheat at 5*s.* per bushel, 963–971——High prices did not pay the grower during the adverse seasons, 1829–1831, 973, 974——Cultivation of turnip and clover lands has improved within fifteen years; more wheat grown thereon; the other crops counterbalance the loss on wheat, 975–982——Improvements on lands from Louth to Barton in Lincolnshire has added to the growth of wheat there, 983–991——Improvements cannot take place to the same extent on heavy as on light soils, 992–996——Crop of 1835 scarcely an average; those of 1833 and 1834, taking the whole kingdom, were very little more than an average, 997–1003——Proportion heavy land bears to light land; improvements on the latter, while the former has remained stationary or gone back, 1004–1011, 1023——The low price of wheat causes the farmer to suffer most, the price of other produce not so much to be complained of 1012–1017——There is no difficulty in letting a turnip farm; farmers with capital will not take the heavy clay lands, 1019–1021, 1024——More advisable for landlords of heavy lands to improve them than make a reduction of rent, 1022——Greater consumption of wheat now than at any previous time; potatoes have not decreased its consumption, 1025–1031.

High prices of wheat in 1824 caused by speculation, aided by paper currency, 1032–1037——Rise in the price of wool since 1830 attributed to the rot, the success of

Houghton, John. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

manufactures and demand from the continent, 1040–1053——Effect of the rot on the price of mutton, 1054–1062——The lowland farmers suffered more from the rot than the upland farmers, the latter having partly gained by the losses of the former, 1063–1069——But for the introduction of bones, thousands of acres could not have been brought into cultivation, 1070–1072——Money laid out by landlords in draining heavy lands for the purpose of keeping up the rent, but which cannot be paid with wheat at 5*s.* a bushel, 1073–1081——Less wheat and oats expected this year from Ireland than generally, 1082–1085——Improvement in the cultivation of Scotland within thirty years, 1086–1088.

Opinion, that from the quantity of clay lands, half the arable land will not pay the expense of cultivation at the present price of wheat, 1089–1091——More wheat grown in Lincolnshire than twenty or thirty years ago, in consequence of the cultivation of wold and fen lands with wheat, 1092–1104——Course of husbandry on the fen lands in Lincolnshire, 1105–1113——Increase of rents in Lincolnshire, 1114–1120——Increase of prices caused by an action of the currency would be a great evil, 1121–1127, 1136, 1137——Duration of leases; there have been reductions of rent, from the state of the times, on twenty-one years' leases, 1128–1135——There are some heavy lands that cannot be turned into money at any price, 1138–1149——There is a demand for light lands, 1153——Number of years' purchase, as sale of land must be considered according to the reduced rental, 1154–1170——Rents cannot be paid on clay lands, unless the price of wheat rises, 1171——Foreclosure of a mortgage, and impossibility of selling the estate by auction for want of bidders, 1172–1178.

Low price of wheat in 1819 and 1820 attributed to foreign importation; since then, to alteration in the currency, 1179——Effect of harvests 1828 to 1833 and altered currency on the price of wheat in 1833, 1180–1191——Manner in which the resumption of gold payments caused ruin to those who had mortgaged or purchased property during the dear times, 1192–1204——Depreciation of the currency would only produce a temporary advantage, 1205–1207——Further evidence upon a change of seed not taking place so much as formerly or so frequently as necessary, 1208–1212——Improvement has taken place in agriculture on light soils, but not on heavy, 1218–1224——Any fall of prices, which may have attended the improvement, may have been from altered currency, 1225–1227——Whether the change from war prices, purchase of another estate, losses, &c., did not affect the person whose mortgage was foreclosed, as well as the altered currency, 1228–1262——Hardship on those who borrowed money during the dear times having to pay the same interest now they are receiving only half what they were when the debt contracted, 1265–1268——Effect of the changes of currency and alteration from war to peace in reducing prices since 1814, 1289–1309——Great doubts of making a rise of prices permanent by an action on the currency, 1310–1324, 1337——Rents have increased on wold lands from the introduction of the bone system of husbandry, 1325–1330——Comparative price of corn and other grain in 1815 and 1832, 1331–1333——Rents on wold lands may be called rather an equalization than an increase, the rents on clay lands having been reduced, 1334–1336——Reduction of duty on clover-seed would not be beneficial, particularly to farmers of heavy land, 1337*–1340*.

House Property. It is rated to the county-rate according to the property tax, *Parker* 12574–12585.

See also *County Rates*, 3. *Local Taxation.*

House Servants. That class of labourers are nearly extinct, *Howard* 5434——Not a general rule for them to board with the farmer, *Atkinson* 5855——It is the practice in Ayrshire for farm servants to live in the house, *Brown* 12251, 12252.

See also *Malt Tax*, 3.

House Tax. Manner in which the objection to the equalization as imposing a house tax could be obviated, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9072— Produce of the house tax in 1833, annual value on which assessed rates of duty, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9075–9077.

Hounslow Heath. Farms at Harmondsworth, Heston and Bedfont were formerly part of Hounslow Heath, but by good cultivation have been rendered as productive as the old cultivated land, *Sherborn* 4080, 4081——Was inclosed about the year 1814, *Sherborn* 4089.

Howard, Charles. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Farming interest progressively worse since 1833, 5327——Distress on the upland farms decreased from the high price of sheep, 5328——Wheat crops have been good but spring crops have failed on lowland farms, 5329–5331——East Riding of York composed of three distinct soils, 5332——Limestone heights upon the wolds have been doing well from the high price of wool, 5333——Farmers in the Holderness district have paid their reduced rents out of their capital, 5333–5336——A tract of 50,000 acres of land in Howdenshire must be thrown out of cultivation if prices of wheat continue as at present, a considerable portion has been out of cultivation since 1829–1831, 5337–5348——High price of wool attributed to the great rot in sheep which took place in the lowlands of Yorkshire, 1829–1831, 5349–5362——If the landlords were to close their accounts the farmers of Holderness and Howdenshire are insolvent, 5364——Rates in the East Riding are not heavy; they are higher in the south of England than in Yorkshire, 5365–5368——The land in that district is generally tithe free, 5369——Rents in Howdenshire have been reduced 40 per cent. since 1816, but those lands

Howard, Charles. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

lands could not remain in cultivation rent-free, 5370–5374——Lands in Holderness will not bear much rent, but may be kept in cultivation, 5375–5378.

Higher price obtained for spring crops has not made up for the deficiency in those crops, 5379——Farmers of late years have been obliged to compensate themselves out of other crops for the cultivation of wheat, 5380, 5381——Fluctuation in prices and comparative condition of farmers from 1816–1831, 5382–5399——Meat bearing a higher price than wheat attributed to the scarcity of mutton causing a greater demand for beef, 5400——Ploughing up the grass lands has increased the price of cattle, and also increased the breadth of wheat sown, 5400, 5401——Less wheat has been sown in 1834 and 1835 from the want of a good vegetating season, and from the price of spring crops being more remunerative, but which may now be expected to raise the price of wheat and reduce that on spring crops, 5402–5406——Continued fall in prices mainly attributed to the increased value of money, 5408–5411.

Bankers will not lend money to farmers on personal security, attributed to the change in the value of money produced by Mr. Peel's Bill of 1819, 5412–5421——Landlords with encumbered estates are worse off than tenants from 50 per cent. reduction in rents, and their own unavoidable expenses remaining the same, 5422–5425——Purchase of an estate in 1809 for 50,000 *l.* paid out of funded property, the value of which estate has been sunk and the proprietor that amount worse than he would have been had he continued his money in the funds, 5426–5429——It was an investment in land, the price of land being high and the funds low, 5477, 5478——Labourers are well off and well employed in the East Riding; partly from the distress of 1824 having caused considerable emigration, but which prosperity will not continue if much land thrown out of cultivation, 5430–5449.

Tradesmen in York heavily complaining; remunerative price for corn as necessary for them as for the landed interest, 5450–5453——Taking the country generally, wheat cannot be cultivated to advantage under 60 *s.*, 5454, 5455——Price of wheat governs that of other commodities upon a series of years, 5456–5460——Fifteen per cent. allowed by the present Commutation of Tithes Bill is not a sufficient latitude, 5461–5463——If tithes and all other rates removed, wheat could not be grown in Yorkshire at 5 *s.* 6 *d.* per bushel, 5465, 5466——Wheat is a better measure of value upon a long tract of time than money, 5467–5469——Price of wheat must rise from the impossibility of cultivating it at 5 *s.* per bushel, 5470–5472——Prices rose from 1823–1825, which was after Mr. Peel's Bill of 1819, 5474–5476——Price of wheat rising higher than that of barley and oats will cause increased growth of wheat, 5479——The rate of wages keeps up to prevent applications to overseers; the prices of grain taken collectively will not pay those wages, 5480–5484.

Poor-rates have decreased in the township of Melbourne and parish of Thornton from the increased emigration, 5485–5493——Manner of accounting for increased population, 1811–1831——With extensive emigration reduced poor-rate and deteriorated cultivation of land 5494–5508, 5513–5518——The wolds being better cultivated than they were, has caused an increased demand for labour there, 5509–5510——There are farms untenanted in the East Riding, on which landlords pay the poor-rate, 5522–5525——They are not good farmers in Howdenshire; course of cropping, 5526——Farming is better understood now than formerly, but want of capital prevents increased knowledge being made useful, 5529——Farmers in Holderness and Howdenshire were formerly opulent but now insolvent, 5530–5537——Poor Law Act works very favourably in the East Riding, 5538——Highway laws very oppressive, 5538——Changing the currency looked to as a means of relief by raising prices, 5539–5547.

The malt tax is paid by the consumer and not by the farmer, 5543, 5544——It is an exceedingly productive tax, 5562, 5563——Size of farms that have been sub-divided, the consequent reduction of rent and increasing farm buildings have been a pressure on the landlord; the tenants are part labourers and part farmers, 5551–5560——Great advantage of malt in fattening cattle, 5564–5572——Lands that have gone out of cultivation in Melbourne and the neighbourhood are in a state of waste; a prudent expenditure of capital by landlords in time might have saved them, 5573–5584——But at present prices would have been lost to the landlord, 5598–5601——A farm sold at 10 *l.* per acre after being improved which was formerly bought at 28 *l.* per acre, 5585–5591——Land is purchased now in expectation that wheat must rise either by land going out of cultivation, or by interference of the legislature 5592–5597——Grass land allowed to be ploughed up with a view to present relief by the tenant and fear of reduction of rent by the landlord, 5602, 5603——Production of wheat per acre in Howdenshire 5604——Prices of barley and oats for the last seven years have not been more than remunerating from deficient crops during part of the time 5605–5611——Estates are almost unsaleable in Yorkshire generally, 5612, 5613.

Howden, Andrew. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Occupying 500 Scotch or 625 English acres at Lawhead in East Lothian, 9958, 9959——Partly turnip and partly clay soil, 9961–9963——Holden under a corn-rent, 9964——Deep drainage has been adopted under a leas for twenty-one years, commencing in 1792; furrow-draining to take away rain water is now being adopted; it has yielded a fair interest for money; expectation of allowance from landlord, 9965–9970——Improved condition of tenantry within three or four years, partly from fine seasons, 9972–9974——The greatest advantage to the farmer has been the conversion of money-rents into corn-rents, 9974–9977——Cultivation of farms

Howden, Andrew. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

in East Lothian has improved, 9978 ——Landlords are keeping up a nominal rent while they are assisting their tenants in tile-draining and improvements, 9979——With regard to labourers, horsemen are paid in kind, day labourers in money, 9980, 9981——Note of rent and expenses on the farms of Lawhead and Truprain 1832–1834, 9983, 9984——Produce of the same farms for the same years estimated by the East Lothian fiars average for these years, and the turnips and grass at the rents of the district, 9985–9988——Amount of corn-rent and former money-rent per acre, 9989——Assessment for the poor, 9990–9992——Farm at Lawhead cropped on the four-course system, 9996, 9997——Intention to change the farm at Truprain from a six to a seven years' course by making it lie two years in grass, the proportion the price that animal food bears to grass induces the change, 9998–10000——Less wheat has been sown this year, 10001–10003——Wheat is superior to the average of Scotland but not equal to the English wheat, 10005, 10006.

Increased weight of wheat and consequent increase of flour, 10007–10009——Low price of wheat attributed to the fine harvests, greater weight of wheat and increase of flour, 10010——Abundant harvests, 1832–1834, and bad harvests 1828 to 1831, 10011–10026——Impossibility of paying a money-rent caused the conversion into a corn-rent, 10027——Sums laid out in draining with only the expectation of assistance from the landlord, 10028–10032——Money paid for lime, and no assistance from landlord, 10033–10038——Amount paid for fish manure annually, 10040——Number of cattle fed in the winter, which are sent to Edinburgh, Glasgow and Morpeth, 10042, 10043——Particulars as to an economical mode of feeding cattle, 10044–10048——Reports to the East Lothian Agricultural Society on the experimental feeding of cattle, 10049–10051——Number of horses used in ploughing quantity of land that can be ploughed in a day, 10052–10055——Particulars as to the method of furrow-draining pursued, 10056–10070–Particulars as to growing and pulling turnips on clay land, 10071–10080.

Beans are a less certain crop than oats, which are the most certain, and then barley and then wheat, 10081——Profit arising from feeding cattle with beans, 10083, 10084——Spring crops have been very good during the last three years, 10085–10087——Advantage to witness from the rot in sheep in England, 10088–10096——Less wheat being sown is owing to the adversity of the seed time and the low price of wheat, 10097, 10098——Advantage to witness with a maximum corn-rent of an abundant season, 10099–10107——Farmers were better off when wheat was 4*l.* than they are now; they were better off before the war in 1792 than they now are, 10108–10113——Change of tenantry has taken place in witness's neighbourhood from the high money-rents which were not sufficiently quickly adapted to the low prices, 10113–10117——The corn law has been deceptive in not keeping wheat at 80*s.* as it was expected, 10118–10122——If witness had started in 1820, and been dependent upon farming alone, with a high money-rent, he would have been ruined by this time, 10123–10126.

Particulars of the manner in which the fiars are set in East Lothian, 10127–10137——Mode adopted between landlords and tenants of agreeing corn-rents according to the fiars, 10138–10143——Necessity for a maximum and reason there is no minimum, 10144–10152——Wheat is selected as the standard for corn-rent, as being the staple of the county, and which will never go out of cultivation, 10153–10157——Increased growth of wheat and acreable produce in Haddingtonshire in the last twenty years, caused by better cultivation of the soil, 10158–10164——Better cultivation has arisen from landlords nominally keeping up their rents, but assisting in improvements so as to allow tenants' capital to come into play, 10165, 10166.

Loss of capital among tenants since 1820, 10167——Conversion of money-rents into corn-rents were rendered necessary from the fall in prices, 10168–10170——Wheat at 56*s.* would be remunerative for Scotland, 10171–10173——Land this side the Tweed to Leeds is in its present state of culture unable to pay any rent; if it were furrow-drained there would be a vast improvement, 10714——One-pound notes in Scotland are a convenience, 10176–10182——Ploughmen are paid in kind; the bulk of day labourers in money, 10183——Agricultural labourers are more comfortable now than at any previous period, 10184–10189——Particulars as to witness's mode of educating his sons, 10190–10197——Advantage to the Scottish and northern farmers of reducing the duty on clover-seed, 10198–10205.

Further evidence as to cattle feeding, particularly as regards raw potatoes, 10206–10213——Tenacious strong clay is ploughed with four horses, 10216–10218——The legislature cannot benefit the condition of the Scotch farmers; the rents were the principal grievance, which the corn-rents have nearly adjusted, 10219–10222——Purchases of land have in many cases been made injudiciously, but the falling prices have partly reduced the value, 10223–10229——Corn law of 1828 has been of no benefit for the last three years; a moderate fixed duty would be better, 10230——Alterations that have been made in wages, price per bushel at which calculated, 10231–10234.

Howdenshire. A tract of 50,000 acres of land in Howdenshire must be thrown out of cultivation if prices of wheat continue as at present; a considerable portion has been out of cultivation since 1829–1831, *Howard* 5337–5348.

Hull. Population, 1811–1831, and effect of emigration in decreasing relative proportion of population, *Howard* 5519–5521.

Hundred Rates. The burning Nottingham Castle and the silk mill increased the hundred rates in Nottingham, *Stevenson* 13088–13090.

Huskisson, Mr. See *Capital,* 4.

Hyde Park Barracks. Supplied with straw from witness's farm at Bedfont, and manure taken back, *Sherborn* 4064, 4096.

Hypothec. Law of hypothec should be altered so as to prevent the landlord having a priority of two years' rent over the other creditors, *Smith* 15237–15248.

I.

Ignorance of Farmers. See *Agricultural Distress,* 5.

Iles, Francis. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Farmers' condition in the wolds of Lincolnshire much the same as in 1833, 7318——Those on clay lands have been getting worse for the last five or six years from the rot in sheep and the low price of wheat, 7318–7321——Increased quantity of wheat grown on wold lands of as fine quality as that grown on clay lands, 7322-7325——A good deal of draining has been done on clay lands, which has caused some improvement in the farmer's condition, 7326-7330——Oats have borne a better price in proportion to wheat, but have scarcely been remunerative on clay lands, 7331–7333——County-rate and poor-rate not very heavy, 7338–7341——Permission to malt barley on his own premises would not be much benefit to the farmer, 7342–7344——Crops in the wold lands for the last three harvests have been very abundant and proportionably so on the clay lands; average produce per acre, 7346–7350, 7543, 7544.

Increased produce will in some measure account for decreased price, 7351——Spring crops have been an average for the last three years, but none have been so good as the wheat crop, 7355–7366——Nothing can be grown on clay lands that will pay better than wheat, though present prices do not remunerate, 7367, 7368——Rot in sheep on the clay lands, and rise in the price of wool and mutton in consequence, 7371–7382——If prices had not risen, the upland farmers would have suffered, but not to the extent that the lowland farmers have suffered, by the rot, 7383——Bone husbandry has been the cause of increased wheat on the upland farms, 7385-7387——Clay lands less productive when farmers badly off, 7388–7390——The difference between the loss if there was no draining and the loss where draining took place would be sufficient to pay for the draining, 7392–7398——Prices for wheat, barley and oats that would be remunerating, 7399——Number of acres of seeds on grass land on the wold farm, 7403–7407——Quantity of bones, fold-yard manure and marl employed on wold land, 7415–7418——Rate of wages, 7427, 7428——Reduction of duty on clover-seed would benefit the wold farmer and injure the clay farmer, 7429–7437——Bone manure has increased progressively in Lincolnshire within the last ten years, 7441–7443, 7445——Grass produce has been increasing, 7446–7448.

Clay lands would not bear the same rent as thirteen years ago, 7449–7452——The relief granted by repeal of the assessed taxes would be only in a small degree, 7453–7456——Rent per acre of witness's farm; the cultivation and expenses are more than the rent, 7460–7473——Rape and cole-seed extensively grown on the fens of Lincolnshire, 7474–7477——Preference in favour of paying no rent and receiving 5*s.* a bushel for wheat and other grain in proportion, than in 24*s.* an acre rent and receiving 7*s.* a bushel for wheat, 7482–7485, 7545–7549——Desirable to sow a large quantity of small seed for pasturage, 7487–7489——Highest and lowest price of wool, 7491–7494——Rate of composition for tithe, 7495–7506——Draining has not been so extensive as the system of bone husbandry; where it has been done by tenants the landlords have sometimes made allowances, 7514–7516——Produce on clay farms upon the whole has not diminished, 7517–7520——Heavy lands unoccupied would find tenants, 7521–7523——Wheat grown on the wolds is principally sent to Wakefield and Leeds markets, 7524–7529——Farmers would be glad of the opportunity of making a return of the quantity of corn they sell and prices, 7530–7534——Improvements in agricultural implements cause produce to be bought cheaper to market than formerly, 7535–7540.

Illicit Distillation. Reduction of the malt duty would give encouragement to illicit distillation in Scotland, *Robertson* 13635.

Implements of Husbandry. See *Agricultural Implements.*

Importation of Corn. See *Bonded Corn. Canada. Currency. Foreign Corn.*

Improvements. See *Agricultural Produce. Agriculture. Bedford, Duke of. Capital,* 4, 5. *Clay Lands,* 2, 8. *Corn Laws,* 2. *Cultivation, II. Draining. Heath Land. Hounslow Heath. Landlords,* 2. *Light Lands. Moss Land. Price of Corn,* 6. *Produce of Corn. Profit and Loss. Rent,* 1, 2, 3. *Wold Lands.*

Inclosures. Landlords sometimes assist their tenants in inclosing their lands, *Howden* 9971. See also *Cultivation, II.* 3.

Income Tax. See *Agricultural Distress,* 6. *Malt Duty,* 4. *Property Tax.*

Incumbrances. See *Landlords. Price of Corn,* 9.

Industrious Classes. See *Productive Classes.*

Inferior Corn. See *Averages. Cattle,* 3.

Inclosure Bills. Number of inclosure bills between the years 1716 to 1835, distinguishing the number in each year, *App. III. p.*501.

Inferior Lands are falling off; they must go to grass, and be cultivated at the east possible expense, *Sanders* 6122, 6123.

Informers. See *Corn Returns.*

Insurrection Act. See *Poor Law Amendment Act,* 2.

Interest. Evils of the rate of interest being as high now as when produce was higher, *Houghton* 874–894, 951, 952——Farmers could always get small sums at five per cent., which they can now; large sums may be got for less, *Houghton* 951, 952——Hardship on those who borrowed money during the dear times, having to pay the same interest now they are receiving only one-half what they were when the debt was contracted, *Houghton* 1265–1268——Bankers could afford accommodation at a lower rate of interest when they could issue notes than they can now, *David* 4456——Rate of interest at which money is lent, *David* 4486–4488; *Langhorn* 7578–7580; *Brown* 12241–12243——Whether the interest of money, laid out in land in England twenty-five years, has fallen, *Oliphant* 11227–11231.

See also *Banks, Country,* 2. *Discount. Mortgages. Provincial Banks.*

Intimidation. The intimidation of 1830 had the effect of keeping up wages in Buckinghamshire, *Houghton* 854–856; *Rolfe* 1596–1598; *Morton* 3970, 3971——In 1830 it prevailed to a very great extent in the west of England, in Wiltshire, Hampshire and part of Berkshire, *Houghton* 872——This spirit seems to have revived within the last few days in the west of England, *Houghton* 873.

See also *Fires. Wages.*

Ipswich. There is a corn exchange at Ipswich, but there is no prohibition against selling elsewhere; a great deal sold at merchants' counting-houses before and after market, *Pooley* 9268–9270——Quality and prices of the different description of corn sold in the Ipswich market, *Pooley* 9273–9296.

Ireland. See *Bog Lands. Capital,* 5. *Corn Laws,* 2. *Draining,* 6. *Emigration. Fixed Duty,* 2. *Flax. Flour Mills. Gold Standard. Growth of Wheat,* 5. *Landlords,* 3. *Land Tax. Middlemen. Population.*

Ireland, Introduction of Poor Laws into. A well-regulated system of poor laws in Ireland would benefit that country and this, *Brickwell* 339, 618–629, 637–642, 645–649; *Houghton* 708, 709, 750; *Rolfe* 1411, 1592–1595, 1701–1707; *Hall* 5001, 5035–5044; *Sturge* 7198, 7199; *Robertson* 8709; *Hancock* 11457–11466; *Boniface* 13284, 13285——Would cause increased consumption of Irish produce in Ireland, *Brickwell* 618–629, 637–642; *Sturge,* 7198, 7199; *Robertson* 8709; *Hancock* 11457–11466——Introduction of poor laws into Ireland would not affect the agricultural or manufacturing interests of England; the relief would be given in potatoes, which can be grown in an unlimited quantity, and would not decrease the amount of Irish exports or the growth of wheat, *Sanders* 6959–6962——If Ireland is to be considered an integral part of the country, she should bear the same burthens as England, *Hancock* 11303.

Irish Bacon and Pork. Labourers in Buckinghamshire do not like Irish pork so well as their own, *Brickwell* 348——Injury to farmers in Bucks, from the imports of Irish bacon, *Brickwell* 323; *Cortis* 1795–1798; *Morton* 3741, 3742——Manner in which it interferes with the bacon produced in Essex, *Kemp* 2198, 2199——Irish pigs are more plentiful within the last six or seven years, *Brickwell* 492–497.

Banking System. Banking system in Ireland tends to obtain high rents for landlords and to keep up prices, *Sanders* 6722–6726——That of Ireland has improved although it is too much extended now, *Sanders* 7087–7089——Extent to which the establishment of banks in Ireland have benefited the farmers, *Blacker* 15454–15461——How far the state of society there prevents the system of small notes being applied to it, *David* 4494——One-pound notes are an advantage to Ireland and would be more so if there were one-pound notes in England, *Blacker* 15451–15453——Failure of banks in Ireland previous to there being one-pound notes, and also in 1821, *Blacker* 15471–15476.

Irish Barley. See *Barley, IV.*

Irish Cattle. Considerable quantity of, sent to the Bristol market, great improvement in their breed, *Hall* 5027, 5028——Expense per beast of sending stock from Dublin to Liverpool, *Shawe* 14390–14392, 14397–14405——Price that stall-fed cattle ought to fetch to pay the expense of their keep, and which has not latterly been obtained, *Shawe* 14414–14421——Average stock per acre fed on certain lands, *Shawe* 14342–14344——Proportion of stock to tillage on farms in Kildare, *Shawe* 14387, 14388——Opinion that the quantity of store cattle exported from Ireland has not decreased, *Shawe* 14428–14436.

See also *Steam Navigation.*

Irish Corn:

1. *Growth of Corn in Ireland, and whether any prospect of its increase.*
2. *Price and quality of Irish Corn.*
3. *Imports from Ireland, and bad effects on English Farmers.*

1. *Growth of Corn in Ireland, and whether any prospect of its increase.*

Great falling off in the growth of wheat this year in Ireland, *Sanders* 6037——Effect of the fertility of the soil in Ireland, and low wages there on increasing growth of wheat, and price of corn in England, *Sanders* 6311–6313——Although the import of wheat from Ireland has not increased, the growth has been greater, and the consumption extended by the distillers and the population, *Sanders* 6008–6012——Large tracts of land in Ireland, on which wheat can be grown at 50*s.*, which will be formidable as agricultural skill applied to them, under the present corn law, *Sanders* 6949, 6950——If Ireland obtained seeds from Pomerania, Silesia, and Poland, the value of her agricultural products would be increased many millions, and she would be better able to meet a fixed duty of 8*s.*, should that measure be resorted to, *Sanders* 7134–7136.

2. *Price and quality of Irish Corn.*

Generally sells at an inferior price to the English, *Hall* 5031–5034——If the price of Irish wheat rose 10*s.* or 15*s.* a quarter, the home consumption of it would cease, *Sanders* 7081——Quality of Irish wheat not so good within the last two years from wet seasons, *Sanders* 6000–6002, 6909, 6910——Great improvement in the quality of Irish grain for the last fifteen years, *Hodgson* 6534.

3. *Imports from Ireland, and bad effects on English Farmers.*

Previous to the union of the customs, imports had been irregularly converted into English measure, the barrel weight being used in Ireland, and the bushel in England, *Jacob* 16——Accounts of imports from Ireland irregularly kept since the union of the customs of the two countries, *Jacob* 16–19, 155–157——Impossibility of corn being smuggled from Ireland into England previous to the union of the customs, *Jacob* 16, 158–161——Number of quarters of corn imported from Ireland, annually, since 1830 by witness's house, *Sturge* 7165——Account of the total quantity of wheat and wheat flour imported into Great Britain from Ireland, from 1800–1825, *Sturge* 7191, 7192.

Quantity of corn, meal, and flour imported into Great Britain from Ireland, in the years 1826–1834, *Sturge* 7191, 7192——Increased exports from Ireland, *Jacob* 94——Decreased exports from Ireland, *Houghton* 1082–1085; *Scott* 5052–5063; *Sanders* 5996–5999, 6925, 6926, 6996–7003; *Hodgson* 6334; *Calthrop* 7834, 7835——Opinion, that the exports of corn from Ireland have reached their maximum, *Sturge* 7195, 7196——Imports of, a cause of low price of corn in England, *Jacob* 94; *Brickwell* 323; *Houghton* 1018; *Rolfe* 1409; *Thurnall* 2597; *Ellman* 4554–4556; *Hayes* 17445–17447——Produce grown on lands, subject to poor-rates and tithes, cannot compete with the produce of Ireland, which is subject to neither, *Brickwell* 337, 338——Cost of production in Ireland is lower than in England, *Sanders* 6016.

Manner in which the interest of the English farmer is affected by the imports from Ireland, occasioned by the improved cultivation of that country, *Houghton* 1018——The cost of importing being 60 per cent. upon the capital invested, is not a sufficient protection to the English farmer, *Rolfe* 1708–1712——Demand of the English market governs the export of corn from Ireland; if tillage is encouraged it will increase, and the labourer have employment, *Brassington* 14709–14712——Quantities of the various kinds of grain brought into Great Britain from Ireland, and sent from Great Britain to Ireland, together with the annual average price of each description of British grain, the whole given for each year, from 1815–1835 inclusive, *App. II. p.* 282.

See also *Clay Lands*, 2. *Price of Corn*, 6. *Steam Navigation.*

Irish Farmers. See *Farmers*, 4.

Irish Flour. Import of flour from Ireland has increased since 1825; it comes now in sufficiently good condition to compete with English flour, *Sanders* 6004, 6005; *Hodgson* 6531–6533——It would require extra preparation for exporting to distant markets, *Hodgson* 6531–6533.

Irish Labourers. Whether they gain settlements in English parishes, *Brickwell* 643——Are rather an advantage during hay-time and harvest, *Brickwell* 487–491——A few Irish labourers are employed upon the level of Ancholme during harvest, when there is a scarcity of others, *Atkinson* 5882–5885——Harvests could not be got in without the assistance of strangers who come from Ireland, the Highlands, Edinburgh and Glasgow, *Hope* 9937–9241——Irish labourers will be absolutely necessary to get in the harvests before many years, *Goodman* 11071——Farmers in Ayrshire could not get their work done without the assistance of Irish labourers, *Brown* 12254, 12255——Rate of wages to them and opinion that they do as much work as English labourers, *David* 4409–4417——Irish labour is not so valuable as English from the low living of the Irish, *Sanders* 6014, 6015——Effect of the employment of, *David* 4409–4410.

See *Price of Corn*, 6.

Irish Linens. Reduction in the price of, though of rather superior quality, *Brickwell* 632–635.

Irish Malt. Injury to English growers from malt from Ireland being smuggled into England, *Sanders* 6806–6811——Reducing the duty one-half would tend materially to stop smuggling, *Sanders* 6819; and would cause a greater use of malt instead of raw grain by brewers and distillers and so prevent a great loss to the revenue by the reduction, *Sanders* 6824–6826——Manner in which the duty is evaded in Ireland, *Sanders* 6821——The certificate system ought to exist in Ireland, *Sanders* 6823.

Irish Oats. Price of, they are kiln-dried, *Rolfe* 1461–1465; *Clarke* 13878, 13879——Increased importation of, *Rolfe* 1541–1549——More oats might be sent from Connaught if the land cultivated by men of knowledge and capital, *Clarke* 13870–13876——Average produce of oats per acre, *Shawe* 14266–14268——Effect on farmers from the interference of Irish oats, *Morton* 3734–3746, 3880–3887.

See also *Oats.*

Irish Poor Commission. Nature of the Irish Poor Inquiry Commission, particularly as regards agriculture in Ireland, *Clarke* 13847, 13848.

Irish Produce. Large importation of, cause of the low prices, *Tillyer* 4210; *David* 4309–4314; *Ellman* 4820–4823; *Bell* 11892——Can be imported into Merthyr cheaper than it can be purchased at farms in the neighbourhood, *David* 4317–4321, 4405, 4406——Irish produce affects the English grower, particularly by supplying the Welsh markets, *Hancock,* 11456——Farmers in Lancashire complain less of the importation of wheat from Ireland than they do of the import of poultry, eggs, and such description of agricultural produce, *Sanders* 6781, 6782——No want of protection against Irish produce, *Goodman* 11071——Cause of export of Irish produce to England during years of distress, *Shawe* 14455–14457.

Increased exports from Ireland do not always show the prosperity of the country, as fixed rents and falling prices may induce the tenantry to bring more produce to market, *Shawe* 14458–14461; *Blacker* 15437–15444——Pigs and corn operate in inverse ratios; the higher the price of pigs the better for the Irish labourer, and the lower the price of corn, *Shawe* 14462–14473——Higher species of food in Ireland is not consumed by the population, but exported, *Bell* 11963–11965——Population of Ireland is capable of consuming a greater proportion of the better kind of food than formerly, *Sturge* 7195, 7196, 7198, 7199——Beneficial if the Irish could be brought to consume their own produce, *Ellman* 4557, 4570–4573; *Ellis* 10707——Account of the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures to the countries from which corn is exported, from 1829 to 1836, *App. III. p.* 542.

See also *Clay Lands. Demand and Supply. Ireland. Steam Navigation.*

Irish Provisions. Quantities and prices of Irish salted beef and pork contracted for during the last twenty-three years, viz. from 1813 to 1835 inclusive, *App. II. p.* 286.

Iron Works. They take off the surplus labour in Glamorganshire when the price of iron increases, *David* 4349, 4350; in Shropshire, *Bickerton* 8716, 8717——Wages have latterly increased owing to demand from, for labour, *David* 4379.

Issues. See *Bank of England Notes. Bank Notes, Country. Five-pound Notes. Joint Stock Banks. One-pound Notes. Paper Currency.*

J.

Jacob, William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Comptroller of corn returns, 1.——The low price of wheat since 1832 attributed to the harvest of that year and a succession of good harvests, 4–7——In 1814–1824, average growth a million quarters less than consumption, 8——Produce of the last three harvests rather above the average, 9–12——Accounts of imports from Ireland irregularly kept since the union of the customs of the two countries, 16–19, 155–157——Quantity of wheat sold is no criterion of consumption or growth, 23–25——Consumption of wheat relative to population declining for the last twenty years, partly from a greater consumption of potatoes, 26–32——Low price of wheat attributed partly to the increased consumption of potatoes, 34–37——Prices of corn in the continental export countries has not fluctuated so much as here; our abundant harvests have reduced their prices, 38–43.

Effect of abundant harvests previous to 1828 and foreign importation in 1819 on price of corn in 1828, 44, 45——Effect of imports in 1826 and 1827, abundant harvests since 1828 and increased consumption of potatoes on the price at present, 46–50——Extent of increase in the consumption of potatoes; also increased production of corn from better husbandry, 51–57——Importations of corn from Scotland are too small to considerably affect the averages, 60–64——Increased consumption of potatoes has been gradual for twenty or twenty-five years; increased consumption since 1833 not sufficient to affect prices between that and the present time, 65–67——Soils on which the order of crops between potatoes and wheat are used, 68, 69——Abundant harvests the principal cause of decreased price since 1833, 73–75——Method of taking the averages in England are more correct than in Scotland, 81, 82.

Improvement in agriculture as well as the state of the weather has caused the succession of good harvests, 84–90——Effect of demand and supply on price, 92, 93——Chief causes of the diminished price, 94——Abundant harvests more the cause of reduced price than the increased consumption of potatoes, 99–103——Comparative prices previ-

Jacob, William. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

ous to 1833 and at present, and effect of stocks on hand, foreign importation, consumption of potatoes, and abundant harvests on price, 104–135——How far increased population since 1821 to be set against fall in price from increased consumption, 138–143——Averages are more correctly taken since the law of 1828, 147–150——Sources of information as to the state of harvests, 162–176——Comparative state of the harvests 1831–1835 with 1820–1827, 179–181——If price of other grain adapted to the present price of wheat, the four-course system of husbandry would not pay, 182–184——Opinion of Mr. Hodgson of Liverpool that harvests 1828–1832 were deficient; whether his opinion at variance with witness's, 188–192——Opinion that excess of harvests 1833–1835 over consumption is only founded on supposition, 193–196.

Excess of production of wheat in countries north of Europe watered by the Vistula, has diminished since 1828, 199–203——Increased cultivation of potatoes has been more by farmers than by labourers, on the allotment system, 206–212——Increased consumption of wheat from increased population since 1833 provided by domestic reduction, 215–217——American flour exported to Canada and their wheat sent here in small quantities, 218–219——Causes of high prices in the three preceding harvests to 1816, and depression of prices during the present three preceding harvests may be different, 220–224——Small surplus beyond demand has a greater effect on price than the quantity would seem to justify; effect of surplus foreign imports in 1819 on subsequent years to 1828, 225–227——In deficient crops the effect on price is more than equal to the deficiency, 228–233.

Counties in which the rate of wages has somewhat fallen since 1833, 234–237——Agriculturist can get any money he pleases at low interest if he has good security, 242——Great, but gradual improvement in the condition of the labouring and other classes within the last fifty years, 243–258——Whether supposed reduction of wages a cause of fires a few years ago, and how far they were kept up by fear of insubordination, 264–267——Employment more abundant than ever, 269——Of what farming capital consists, 273–276——Effect of reducing the price of barley and oats on reducing the price of wheat, 280–290——No difficulty in finding permanent employment for agricultural labourers at fair wages; how far an intention of removing surplus labourers to manufacturing districts, 291–300——Extract from Mr. Huskisson's Agricultural Report of 1821, relative to the general public improvements made by private capital, 302–304.

Jacob, Mr. His opinions connected with corn and the foreign corn trade not to be relied on, *Sanders* 6928.

Joint Stock Banks. Extent to which they have encouraged speculation and caused a rise in prices in the manufacturing districts, *Sanders* 6075–6079——Extent of the issues of joint stock banks and consequent rise in price, Earl *Radnor* 16731–16734——The rise of prices emanating from joint stock banks not likely to be permanent from the circumstance that they rise above a certain level; it checks the export of manufactured goods and tends to cause export of gold and contraction of bank issues, *Spooner* 15583–15586——Opinion that a system of paper money might be introduced by, with benefit to the country, *David* 4459–4464——Bills issued by, contribute to the prosperity of manufactures; nature of manufactures gives a greater habit of accommodating that interest; there is difficulty in accommodating farmers more particularly now their means have deteriorated, *David* 4465–4474; *Scott* 5129–5144; *Sanders* 6072–6074.

Increased facility of accommodation to farmers owing to joint stock banks, *David* 4343; *Sturge* 7283; *Calthrop* 8085–8087; *Umbers* 8530, 8531; *Bickerton* 8741–8743; *Brassington* 14619–14623——They will grant accommodation to a farmer of good habits on the security of another farmer, *Bickerton* 8805–8811——Establishment of; every one that ought to have accommodation can get it, *Ellis* 10955–10957——They have had a very useful effect in the agricultural districts, they grant a business-like accommodation, and have made private banks more open to the wants of their customers, *Calthrop* 7841–7846——Further advantages of joint stock banks and security to the public by their being compelled to pay their notes in gold, *Blacker* 15465–15468.

Improper manner in which business is conducted by them, particularly as regards their system of discounts, commissions and advances on opening new accounts; inconvenience a suspension of payment would cause to commerce, though the majority of them may eventually be solvent, *Sanders* 6080–6098——Mode of discount adopted by them, and manner in which they supersede the Bank of England and private banks, *Muntz* 16440–16444——No reason why the issues of joint stock banks should be different in their operation from ordinary country banks, Lord *Ashburton* 17616, 17617.

Extent to which the struggle between the Bank of England and the joint stock banks of Lancashire has caused the latter to reduce the issue of notes, *Sanders* 6212–6216——If the bill of 1819 has any effect on joint stock banks, it is to throw impediments in the way of too extensive a circulation, *Sanders* 6258–6260——Apprehension of danger from joint stock banks, *Hodgson* 6603——How far they are on a more sure foundation than the former private banks were, *Brassington* 14757–14759——Amount of paid-up capital ought to be increased as a means of preventing a derangement of commerce by the joint stock banking companies, *Sanders* 6860–6862——They are a convenience but are liable to abuse, *Sanders* 6929——A joint stock bank has been established at Berwick within the last few months. *Langhorn* 7660–7662.

See also *Banks, Country. Gold. Manufacturing Interest. Panic. Price of Corn,* 8. *Savings' Banks.*

K.

Kildare. Quantity of land in Kildare in tillage and in grass on which cattle are fed, *Shawe* 14263, 14264.

Kincardineshire. Cost of working an acre of strong clay, including interest, *Robertson* 13826.

Kemp John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Farmer at Southminster, Essex, 1917, 1918——Distress of farmers in Essex prevents their keeping stocks of corn on hand, 1940–1942——Distress, 1828–1831, caused by wet seasons and deficient crops, 1945——Distress now from low price of wheat, 1947–1949, 1977, 1978——Price of meat is not so good as at Christmas and just after, 1950–1957——Decrease in the price of wheat from a greater supply caused by an increased quantity grown per acre, 1958–1960——Stock in the hands of farmers less than it used to be, 1963——Capital much diminished, 1964——There is not less wheat sown than formerly in consequence of the depression, 1965–1968——Not so much land untenanted as some time back, from the landlords having made very great sacrifices, 1969–1973.

Unrestricted use of barley would be a benefit, particularly to labourers, and would increase the growth of barley, 1979–1989, 1998–2000, 2059–2061, 2070–2074——Reduction of rates from the Poor Law Bill, 1990–1992——Repeal of assessed taxes would not be a relief to any extent, 1995–1997——Rents paid out of capital, 2004——Extent of reduction made in rents, 2005–2010——Farming tradesmens' bills not reduced, 2011–2013, 2067–2069——Whether price of corn, 1822–1835, remunerating, 2019–2023——Prices of other grain not always governed by the price of wheat, 2025–2032——Amount paid for labour by witness less than formerly; not less labour employed on the farm, 2033–2039.

Condition of farmers better than it was, 1828–1830, 2049–2051——Average crop of wheat per acre in 1834, 2052–2056——Commutation of tithes would not be a benefit in witness's district, 2057——With fair crops 60*s.* for wheat would be remunerating, 2066——Labourers as well off now with reduced wages as formerly with higher; price of flour is lower and there is better employment, 2078–2096——Improved crops have caused farmers to be better off than three years ago; increased price does not make up for deficient harvests, 2097–2107——Great reductions have been made in rents though not sufficient for the present price of corn, 2111–2119——Many farmers are either at the mercy of their landlords, or farming on borrowed capital, 2123, 2124.

Low prices attributed to better crops arising from better cultivation aided by dry seasons, 2130–2143, 2201–2207——How far the dry seasons may have caused a rise in the price of barley in Essex, 2144–2153——If depressed prices continue, farmers will not employ so much labour, 2160–2168——Extent of cultivation of witness's farm and profit arising from it, 2169–2183——Rise in the price of corn in Chelmsford market within the last month, 2184–2187——Rise in the price between this and the next harvest will be an aggravation of difficulties to those who have sold their last year's corn, 2188–2190——The want of accommodation formerly obtained from country banks causes needy farmers to throw corn on their market shortly after harvest, and thus reduce the price, 2208–2213——Further reduction of rent that would enable witness to obtain 10 per cent. on his capital, 2214-2220——In the last seven years there has not been an average crop on witness's farm, 2221–2228——Rate of composition for tithes, 2229–2233——Rent of cottages; farm servants live in them, 2234–2252.

L.

Labour. As much employed as formerly in Bucks, *Morton* 3671——In Cambridge, *Thurnall* 2674, 2675——In Essex, *Kemp* 2033–2039; *Babbs* 3227——In Huntingdonshire, *Bowyer* 3449——In Lincolnshire, *Calthrop* 8124——In Middlesex, *Sherborn* 4047, 4048, 4117, 4118, 4173——Amount paid for labour on different farms, *Kemp* 2033–2039; *Bowyer* 3444–3446, 4241, 4242; *Tillyer* 4261, 4262; *Page* 2717, 2718——Estimated expenditure for labour on a well regulated farm of 100 acres, *Brassington* 14651——Obligation of farmers in Huntingdonshire to employ labourers has kept the land in a good state of cultivation, *Bowyer* 3521——Land in Bucks has deteriorated from the want of labour, *Houghton* 857–862——The most skilful farmers employ the most labour, *Jacob* 272——Quantity of labour usually employed on farms, *Shawe* 14488–14493.

There has been a constant continual increase of labour up to the present year in Bedford, *Bennett* 8324——Not more labour employed than absolutely necessary, *Rolfe* 1357——More would be employed if prices were remunerating, *Houghton* 857–862——If depressed prices continue, farmers will not employ so much labour, *Rolfe* 1600; *Kemp* 2160–2168——Difficulty of employing the labour that would be thrown out by the clay lands ceasing to cultivate wheat, *Sanders* 7137–7141——Low prices will not decrease the use of labour, as the lands will probably get into the hands of large capitalists, *Calthrop* 8128, 8129——If wheat lands used for other crops it would benefit the farmer, and cause a greater employment of labour, *Calthrop* 8130–8136——System of agricultural labour, as in England, is scarcely known in Ireland, *Blacker* 15384.

See also *Agricultural Labourers. Clay Lands. Clover Seed*, 2. *Manufacturing Districts. Poor Rates. Wages*, 1.

Labourers. See *Agricultural Labourers.*

Labouring Classes. Impossibility of labourers remaining prosperous if the manufacturers are paying wages out of capital, *Muntz* 16596–16602——They are as well off now as before the end of the war; they are now complaining of the late rise in the prices of provisions, *Muntz* 16519–16525.

See also *Agricultural Labourers. Political Unions. Potatoes. Productive Classes.*

Lace-making. Formerly carried on in Bucks by the females, but which did not affect the wages of the males, *Brickwell* 667–670.

Lambs. Average number and price of lambs bought at Weyhill fair 1825-1835, by G. & J. Smallpiece, of Compton, near Guildford, Surrey, *Smallpiece* 3201——Would not fetch so much money if it had not been for the increase in the price of wool, *Cooper* 5734——More lambs killed last year than usual, *Umbers* 8480——The present lambing season has been the worst within witness's recollection, *Bickerton* 8828.

Land. Description of some wet common field land in Buckinghamshire, that would answer best for barley at its present price, *Brickwell* 580–582——Nature of the soil in Huntingdonshire, two-thirds of which would not pay for cultivation with wheat at 5*s.* a bushel, *Bowyer* 3507–3510——Quality of land in Essex, *Babbs* 3321–3325——Competition between good and bad lands acting unfavourably to the latter cannot be avoided, *Sanders* 6940–6943——Unreasonable to expect land which is unimproved to compete with that on which large sums have been laid out, *Sanders* 7031–7033——Further evidence upon the new lands superseding the old, *Sanders* 7043–7046.

A great deal of new land is being brought into cultivation in Aberdeenshire, *Robertson* 13650, 13651——Productive power of land has diminished from the land being run out, *Spooner* 15805, 15806——Land is purchased now in expectation that wheat must rise either by land going out of cultivation or by interference of the legislature, *Howard* 5592–5597——Purchase of an estate in 1809 for 50,000*l.*, paid out of funded property, the value of which estate has been sunk, and the proprietor that amount worse than he would have been had he continued his money in the funds, *Howard* 5426–5429——It was an investment in land, the price of that being high and the funds low, *Howard*, 5477, 5478——Amount of tax assessed on lands, tenements, &c., *Wood* and *Garnett* 9053.

See also *Allotment System. Barley, III.* 2. *Clay Lands. Cultivation, II. Farms. Fen Lands. Grass Lands. Heath Lands. Light Lands. Moss Lands. Pasture Land. Poor Land. Poor Rates,* 2. *Value of Land. Wold Lands. Wet Land.*

Landed Interest. See *Agricultural Interest.*

Landed Securities. See *Panic.*

Landlord and Tenant. See *Agricultural Distress,* 6. *Agricultural Prosperity. Corn Laws,* 1. *Corn Rents,* 2. *Cultivation, II.* 3. *Landlords,* 5. *Lime. Local Taxation. Poor Rates,* 3.

Landlords:

1. *Condition of Landlords.*
2. *Extent of their assistance in improvements.*
3. *Extent to which Farms have been taken possession of by them.*
4. *In Ireland.*
5. *Scotland.*

1. *Condition of Landlords.*

There have been some changes of property, and reduction of rents have placed owners in an unpleasant situation, *David* 4356——Condition of, worse off than in 1790, unless their rents paid out of their tenants' capital, *David* 4482, 4483——Landlords are making less of the land than they did, *Cooper* 5804——Landed proprietors ought to have a better knowledge of the value of land, *Hall* 5024–5026——Landlords with encumbered estates are worse off than tenants, from fifty per cent. reduction in rents, and their own unavoidable expenses remaining the same, *Howard* 5422–5425——Landlord and tenant under lease are equally interested in a rise of prices by means of a depreciated standard, as both would be saved from ruin, *Langhorn,* 9036–9042——Landlords as well as farmers lived expensively during the war; charges on property made on the war rents have not diminished though the rents have, which now presses on the landlords, *Brassington* 14754–14756.

2. *Extent of their assistance in improvements.*

Extent of assistance for draining, &c. granted by landlords, *Brickwell* 356, 357; *Rolfe* 1359; *Langhorn* 7599–7606; *Bickerton* 8857, 8858——Have not assisted in draining, *Goodman* 11023——Witness's landlord allows a kiln for tiles on the farm, and a sum to drain the land with, *Umbers* 8562–8566——Instances of their allowing tenants for improvements made by them, rather than make a permanent reduction of rent, *Parker* 12433——Better for landlords to lay out money in draining than reduce rent, *Brickwell* 506, 507; *Houghton* 1022; *Smallpiece* 3160–3164, 3176–3181; *Ellis* 10778–10781; *Spooner* 15816–15819——But for draining, the landlords must have reduced their rents on clay lands, *Walker* 10548–10551——They are keeping up a nominal rent while they are assisting their tenants in tile-draining and improvements, *Howden* 9979, 10165, 10166——Money laid out by, in draining heavy lands, for the purpose of keeping up the rent,

LANDLORDS:—2. *Extent of their assistance in improvements*—continued.

but which cannot be paid with wheat at 5*s.* a bushel, *Houghton* 1073–1081——Tenants willing to pay their landlords five per cent. for the expenses they are at in draining, *Brown* 12098–12102——Would not prevent incoming tenants taking the benefit of the outgoing tenants' good management, *Thurnall* 2454——Great deal of indulgence has been given by the landlords to their tenants, *Bickerton* 8688.

3. *Extent to which Farms have been taken possession of by them.*

Some of the farms in Buckinghamshire have gone into the landlords' hands; condition of them on the tenants' leaving; one of them too expensive to cultivate to bear any rent, acreable produce, extent to which drained, course of cropping, &c., *Cox* 14136–14174——Great part of the parish of Mayland, Essex, in the hands of the landlords three or four years ago; great reduction of the rent of such farms as have been since let, *Page* 2678–2682——Increase of produce of land may be partly accounted for by landlords having possession of their farms, and capital being expended on the lands, *Babbs* 3287, 3288, 3305——Instance of a farm in Nottingham farmed by a landlord, and afterwards let at a reduced rent, *Stevenson* 13079–13084——Extent of occupancy of land by owners in Surrey, and whether land improved in consequence when re-let, *Smallpiece* 2995–3005.

4. *In Ireland.*

Landed proprietors are making great exertions to teach the people a better system of husbandry, *Clarke* 13896——Have suffered from a depression of rents, having mortgages on their estates, but they have not pressed their tenants, *Shawe* 14439–14441——Incumbrances of landed proprietors; they are not in a situation to bear additional charges; the incumbrances arise from the law of primogeniture, *Shawe* 14497–14501——In Ireland have not exacted exorbitant rents; they have been lenient to their tenants, *Brassington* 14731–14733——Mr. Peel's Bill of 1819 was a severe infliction on landlords having incumbrances on their estates, which has prevented so liberal a reduction as would have taken place, though necessity compelled a reduction, *Blacker* 15433–15436.

5. *In Scotland.*

Witness's landlord has expended about 800*l.* on the different buildings on his farm within the last four or five years, *Hope* 9901——There has been an adjustment between landlord and tenant, *Robertson* 13626, 13627——Condition of landlords is better; produce has increased, which has tended to keep up rental, *Robertson* 13663–13668.

See also *Capital*, 4. *Clay Lands*, 2. *Corn Rents*. *Creditors*. *Cultivation, II.* 3. *Draining*. *Grass Lands*, 2. *Hypothec*. *Emigration*. *Farm Buildings*. *Farms*, 1, 3. *Inclosures*. *Leases*. *Loans*. *Middlemen*. *Poor Rates*, 2. *Provincial Banks*. *Rent*, 1, 3, 7. *Small Proprietors*. *Tenantry*, 2.

Land Tax. Manner in which land tax imposed by Act 4 Will. & Mary, c. 1., and at what rate, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9947——The Act extends to Scotland, but not to Ireland, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9050——Proportions of the sum directed to be raised by the Act of 1798, that were charged in England and Wales, and Scotland, respectively, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9051——Preamble and second clause of the Act Will. & Mary, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9111, 9112——Amount of land tax taking the average of agricultural counties is under 1*s.* in the pound, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9082——Statement showing some of the most striking inequalities in the proportions of land tax raised by different places, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9064——Statement by the late Mr. Sayer, registrar of land tax, in March 1834, proposing a new land tax of 4*s.*, 3*s.*, or 2*s.* in the pound, in consequence of a proposition of Mr. Tooke's to Lord Althorp, for a select committee to inquire into the state of the land tax, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9081——Plan for a new land tax is practicable, but doubts as to its expediency, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9082.

Objections anticipated to the equalization of the land tax, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9071——In the event of equalization, the power of redemption should be continued; alteration that should be made in the terms of redemption, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9073, 9074——Facility would be given to the equalization of property rated at its actual value, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9079——Amount of land tax redeemed, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9055——Circumstances under which part of the land tax redeemed continues in charge, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9062, 9063——Statement of the amount of land tax redeemed in each year since 1827, and average rate at which redeemed, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9079.

Statement of the gross receipt of land tax in Great Britain, from 1797–1828, showing the progress made in the redemption thereof, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9080——Land tax now only redeemed on small portions affecting particular estates, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9081——Difference in the amount of funds now and at the time the power of redemption was given, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9083, 9084——Amount that would have to be paid by a person redeeming 4*l.* per annum land tax, and amount that he would have paid when the land tax was made perpetual, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9101–9108——Whether the public would avail themselves of the redemption if more advantageous terms were offered, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9079——Total annual loss to the public of allowing a redemption at twenty-five years' purchase, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9085——Average rate of land tax through England, Wales and Scotland, *App. III. p.* 544.

See also *Assessments for the Land Tax*. *Collectors of Land Tax*. *Legacies*. *Personal Property*. *Quotas of the Land Tax*. *Recovery of the Land Tax*.

Langhorn,

Langhorn, John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Depressed condition of farmers on strong soils on Lord Tankerville's estate in Northumberland, 7552, 7553——Twenty per cent. reduction of rent on that land, 7554, 7555——It is loamy clay, the best quality of wheat soil, but rather expensive to cultivate, 7556, 7557——Poor-rate low; deductions made from the tithe to cover that and other charges, 7558——Rate of weekly wages, 7560——Labourers are principally paid a certain portion of produce for the support of their families, and about 4*l.* per year in money, 7560–7563——Difficulties of the farmers attributed to diminished currency, 7565——Extent to which circulation has diminished in Berwick, 7567–7569.

Nature of accommodation afforded to farmers, 7570——Issues of the Bank of England regulate the issues of country banks, 7571, 7572——Distressed state of farmers prevents money being lent to the extent it was formerly, 7573–7577——Rate of interest at which money is lent, 7578–7580——Money is lost in some of the best farms of Northumberland from the low price of corn, 7581–7583——The abundance of corn causes the price to be low, and the rot in sheep causes wool and stock to be high, 7584-7588——Increase of wheat has been from the bounty of the seasons in the last three years, 7589, 7590——This year the growth of wheat is diminishing and that of barley increasing, 7590, 7591——Acreable produce has increased of late years from a better system of husbandry, from more draining and the bone system, 7595–7598——Assistance given by landlords to their tenants as regards draining, 7599–7606.

Comparison between 1824 and 1833, with regard to rents and prices, 7608–7619——Twenty per cent. reduction of rent on good wheat soils since 1824, 7620–7625——Farms out of lease this year have been let at about ten per cent. reduction, 7627——Greater banking business done at Berwick at the present time by one bank than there was in 1814 by three banks, and that with a smaller circulation of notes, 7628–7658——Circulation of Bank of England five-pound notes 1819–1825, 7659——No objection to advance money to farmers in fair credit, but loans for the payment of rent are refused, 7663–7667——Effect of rival banks with regard to returning the notes of each other, 7670–7673——If one-pound notes could be given in change more of them could be issued, but witness has no wish to issue them, 7674–7679——Further evidence as to the increase in witness's banking business, as regards deposits, at Berwick, 7680–7687.

Town of Berwick as regards extension of trade has been standing still these twenty years, 7689–7691——There is no difficulty in getting gold for circulation, it has supplied the place of one-pound and two-pound notes, 7692–7695——Reduction in the number of five-pound notes issued since 1814, and greater use of checks, 7696–7700——Reductions that have taken place in rent since 1824, and reductions that must be made, 7701–7716.

Ploughing up grass land does not deteriorate the land, looking at the quantity of turnips produced, 7719–7726——Sale of Greenwich Hospital estates in 1833, at about thirty years' purchase on the then rental, 7727–7732——Effects of one-pound notes, particularly as regards Scotland; they would benefit England; bankers do not like them in case of a run, 7733–7777.

(Second Examination.)—Issue of Bank of England one-pound notes would be a great benefit, 8913——Withdrawal of country bank notes in 1825 and 1826, was injurious to the community, 8915——Effect of increased issues in relieving distress at different periods between 1816 and 1825, 8916-8921——Advantage of a double standard; silver would always stop a panic; it would have prevented that of 1825 going as far as it did, 8922-8924——Scotland does not derive any benefit from the circulation of one-pound notes as regards increase of prices, 8925–8927——The extended or contracted issues of banks causes the rise or fall in prices, 8928-8938——The great export of bullion from the bank in 1825, caused by the state of foreign exchanges, arising from the over export of manufactured goods, eventually caused the panic, 8939, 8940–8942.

Excessive issues of paper in 1822 and 1823 caused the then called prosperity of 1824 and 1825, and the subsequent panic, 8941, 8942——Check on issues should be their controvertibility into the precious metals, 8943, 8944——Advantage of an issue of one-pound notes by the Bank of England, if done with circumspection, 8945–8949——It would not affect foreign exchanges if there was a silver standard, 8950–8956——The issue of one-pound notes would tend to displace the sovereigns from circulation, 8957–8960——A panic would be avoided by the bank having the power of paying either in gold or silver, 8961–8965——Silver should be issued at the rate of 66*s.* to the pound weight, which would be an advantage to the bank and to all debtors who have lost their property by a return to the gold currency, 8966–8977.

Manner in which the agricultural interest would be benefited by the rise of prices from depreciated currency, 8978–8997——If currency depreciated by a silver standard, debts would not be paid in gold; gold standard should be reduced; a silver standard preferable to gold, 8998–9008——The ignorance of the framers of the measure of 1819, of the extent that that measure would affect prices has been the ruin of thousands, 9009-9014——Depreciation of the currency would not affect the labourer; wages of labour are too high, 9015–9018——Presumed that a rise in prices by a substitution of silver would not raise the price of other commodities to an extent injurious to foreign trade or mercantile transactions, 9023——If the issue of notes caused a rise in the price of gold, the bank could stop that rise by contracting their circulation, 9024, 9025——Creditors would lose by a depreciated currency, but that loss would be a gain, inasmuch as it would prevent their losing the whole of their property, 9026–9030——Manufacturing pros-

Langhorn, John. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

perity arises from speculations and being bolstered up by joint stock banks, but it will not continue, 9031–9034——Landlords and tenants under lease are equally interested in a rise of prices by means of a depreciated standard, as both would be saved from ruin, 9036–9042——Raising the present standard above that of 1797 is an act of injustice which nothing can justify, 9043, 9044.

Law Suits, Parochial. Return from the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales, showing the amount of money expended for the relief of the poor, in suits of law, removal of paupers, &c., *App. III. p.* 616.

Laurence, St., Parish, Essex. Several farms in this parish that are untenanted, *Kemp* 2044.

Leases. Stipulation in leases in Hampshire with regard to cropping, *Stares* 11778–11780——They were more in use in Leicester during the war than at present, *Ellis* 10840–10845——Not advantageous to grant leases of clay farms to men of small capital, *Ellis* 10868–10871——Objections to leases by landlords in Somerset while present prices continue, *Hancock* 11407, 11408——Prudent men in Sussex will not take a lease, being of opinion that the House of Commons and Ministers are unfavourable to the corn laws, and that if they are repealed prices would be lower, *Boniface* 13222–13225——Steadiness of price is important to a man taking a farm on lease, but with wheat at 40 *s.* he would not take a lease for twenty-one years, *Boniface* 13226–13234.

Leases in Ireland would be beneficial where tenants possess capital, otherwise they are only binding on the landlord, *Brassington* 14617——Duration of leases; there have been reductions of rent from the state of the times on twenty-one years' leases, *Houghton* 1128–1135——Duration of leases in Scotland, *Hope* 9645, 9646; *Bell* 11824–11828; *Robertson* 13600, 13601; *Menzies* 13947, 13948; *M'Dougal* 14516, 14517——Farmers of Aberdeen usually occupy their farms under leases, *Walker* 10515——Stipulations in leases in Berwick binding tenants to a system of good husbandry, *Bell* 11838, 11839.

See also *Agricultural Prosperity. Price of Corn,* 9.

Leather Tax, See *Hides. Shoes.*

Legacies. Opinion with regard to the payment of land tax on a legacy of 10,000 *l.* in the county of Rutland, *Wood* and *Garnett,* 9131.

Leicester. See *Railroads.*

Leinster. The province of Leinster is the best cultivated district in Ireland, *Brassington* 14668.

Letting Land. See *Clay Lands,* 4. *Farms,* 4.

Light Lands. Less expensive to cultivate than heavy lands, *Brickwell* 498——Have been better off in consequence of the rot causing the wool to fetch a remunerating price, *Houghton* 725–749——There is a demand for, *Houghton* 1153——Improvements have taken place in agriculture on light soils, but not on heavy, *Houghton* 1218–1224——Improvements on light lands have been going on for thirty-five years, *Spooner* 15696–15706——If prices remain as they are, light soils will go out of cultivation, *Rolfe* 1490–1497——Farmers on light lands suffering severely, *Thurnall* 2349——Farmers farming light lands, and having sheep, are doing well, *Smallpiece* 2868–2871.

Condition of farmers on, much better of late years, owing to the increased price of wool, *Ellman* 4501–4508——Farmers on light lands quite as well off in 1833; better than heavy land farmers, *Ellis* 10855, 10856——Light lands can be farmed at a profit; light land farmers have not been injured at all, *Crowther* 12804——Light lands more beneficial than clay lands, though they are as well as three years ago, *Crowther* 12976–12980——Greater proportion of wheat grown on light than heavy soils during the last ten or fifteen years, *Sturge* 7263——Description of crops grown on light lands, *Walker* 10511, 10512; *Robertson* 13826——It will not on an average of years grow more wheat than the old wheat land, *Ellis* 10857, 10858.

See also *Agricultural Prosperity. Capital,* 4. *Clay Lands.*

Limber Parish. Value per acre of tithes in this parish, *Atkinson* 5909.

Lime. Greater use of lime on clay lands would be advantageous, *Atkinson* 5840–5843——Its use increased on clay lands, *Ellis* 10700——Is of very great service if properly laid on after the land has been drained, *Iles* 7412——Advantage of lime as a manure and cost per acre, *Brodie* 10476–10496——Good effect of lime, particularly on clay soils, *M'Dougal* 14558–14563——Double quantity of lime put in on the second liming; remarkable effect of lime in producing clover, *Church* 13545–13547——Period the advantage from the use of lime lasts in the ground, *Umbers* 8460——Cost per acre of liming and period that it lasts, *Bell* 12051–12057——Should be used on alluvial soils about once in twenty years, *Church* 13481–13483——Cost of lime in Dumfries, *Church* 13441–13444——Money paid for lime and no assistance from landlord, *Howden* 10033–10038——Quantity of lime used per acre and cost, *Walker* 10526–10531.

See also *Bog Lands. Clay Lands,* 8. *Cultivation, II.* 3. *Grass Lands. Railroads. Rape-dust, &c.*

Limestone. Plenty of limestone to be found in Ayrshire; generally sufficiently below the surface, *Brown* 12352–12354.

Limestone Land. Potatoes may be alternately sown with wheat on this description of land, *Jacob* 69——Limestone heights upon the wolds have been doing well from the high price of wool, *Howard* 5333——Effect of wet and dry springs upon limestone lands, *Hope* 9806–9811.

Lincolnshire. Distress on clay lands there, *Houghton* 1152.

Linens are much cheaper than some years ago, though the price is higher than two or three years ago, *Brickwell* 632.
See also *Cottons. Irish Linens.*

Linseed. Reduction of duty on linseed very desirable, *Iles* 7440.

Liverpool. Is very lightly assessed to the land tax, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9127, 9128
See also *American Flour. Bonded Corn*, 1, 5. *Corn Returns.*

Liverpool and Manchester Railroad. See *Railroads.*

Liverpool Market. Supply of corn as regards the district of Liverpool has rather diminished during the last three years as compared with the three preceding, *Scott* 5049–5051——Is principally supplied with corn from Ireland and coastwise; very few farmers above ten miles from Liverpool send their corn to that market, *Scott* 5240.

Loams. Rotation of crops for deep rich loams, *Robertson* 13826.

Loans. Farmers of known capital and with good security have no difficulty in getting money, *Jacob* 242; *Houghton* 776, 874–894, 951, 953; *David* 4454, 4455; *Langhorn* 7663–7667; *Umbers* 8528–8530, 8582–8587; *Brodie* 10467–10469; *Stares* 11666, 11667; *Bell* 11991–11996; *Brown* 12355, 12356, 12363–12368——Nature of accommodation afforded to farmers, *Langhorn* 7570——Farmers cannot get that accommodation from bankers that tradesmen can, from not having similar negociable security to offer, *Thurnall* 2623–2626; *Spooner* 15707–15709; *Burgess* 16077–16080——During the Bank Restriction Act, approved industry and integrity formed the basis of advances, even without adequate security, *Burgess* 15946——The farmer would be relieved by being allowed to raise money on his corn in hand, that corn not being liable to distress for rent by the landlord, *Houghton* 899–902, 907——Accommodation to farmers, which prevents their prematurely forcing their crops on the market, is a benefit, *Brassington* 14760——Credit is as cheap as is desirable, *Sturge* 7282–7283——Money is dangerously cheap now, *Sanders* 7104——Mode of accommodation is by discounts in England and cash credits in Scotland, *Bell* 11992–11995.
See also *Agricultural Distress*, 5. *Agricultural Loan Bank. Interest.*

Local Taxation. Comparative taxes paid by farmers in England and Ireland, *Sanders* 6113–6120——Houses and land should be equally rated at their rack rents, *Goodman* 11028–11030——Inequality of local taxation borne by shopkeepers over agriculturists, *Goodman* 11069——Local taxation should be more equally divided, *Parker* 12478–12480——Local taxes are fixed; state of them, *Cramp* 9519–9524——Amount of local burthens which are paid between the landlord and tenant, *Brown* 12197–12200——The burthens on a farm must be taken into account in ascertaining the rent it will bear, *Bell* 12007, 12008——Reduction of, would be advantageous to the farmers, *Cooper* 5676——Removal of, would not enable witness to sell at present prices, *David* 4401–4404——If all rates removed, wheat could not be grown at 5*s.* a bushel, though it could at 7*s.*, *Cooper* 5774–5776.
County-rate and poor-rate not very heavy in the wolds of Lincolnshire, *Iles* 7338–7341——Diminishing them very desirable, *Ellman* 4824–4829——Rates not heavy, 2*s.* 6*d.* in the pound will cover all in Warwickshire, *Umbers* 8500, 8501——Rates in the East Riding are not heavy; they are higher in the south of England than in Yorkshire, *Howard* 5365–5368——All outgoings in Scotland affecting land are paid by the landlord, *Oliphant* 11107——All public burthens in Scotland are paid by assessment upon a valuation of the kingdom made in the time of Charles II.; proportion the valued rent bears to the actual rent, *Oliphant* 11113–11119——Assessment upon the valued rent may in some cases be unequal, but it is paid by the landlord, and is not complained of, *Oliphant* 11258——Local burthens are light in Scotland, *Robertson* 13614–13616——Local charges are not heavy, and are borne between landlord and tenant, in Aberdeen, *Walker* 10687–10694——Amount of local charges; no public burthens to complain of, in Haddington, *Hope* 9673–9677——Are very trifling in Roxburgh, *M'Dougal* 14524, 14525.
See also *Agricultural Distress*, 6. *Debt, National. Highway Rate. Hundred Rate. Manufacturing Prosperity. Mines. Rent*, 7.

Loch, James, M.P. Delivers in memorandum by T. F. Kennedy, Esq., of Dunure, respecting his experience of the system of draining and sub-soil ploughing recommended by Mr. Smith, of Deanston, in the county of Stirling, 16326.

Loch, Mr. His opinion that wheat is a better measure of value upon a long track of time than money, *Howard* 5469.

London. See *Beer.*

London, City of. Assessment for land-tax on the city of London, particularly as regards stock in trade, offices and personal estate, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9143.

London Establishments. See *Failures.*

Londonderry, Lord. See *Paper Currency.*

Lothian, East, Agricultural Society. Reports to the East Lothian Agricultural Society on the experimental feeding of cattle, *Howden* 10049–10051.

Lothians. Improvement in the husbandry of the Lothians, within the last twenty years, *Hope* 9814.

Lowland Farms. Wheat crops have been good, but spring crops have failed on lowland farms, *Howard* 5329–5331.

Louth. Fresh ploughed rich marsh land down by Louth would pay a profit at present prices, yielding a crop of either oats or wheat every year, *Byron* 8405, 8406.

Louth to Barton. Improvements on lands from, has added to the growth of wheat there, *Houghton* 983–991.

Lucerne. Reason the cultivation of, abandoned in Sussex; white clover-seed generally the most valuable, *Ellman* 4865–4867.

Luxuries. In the articles of luxury which are consumed by the better classes, the reduction of price has not been in proportion to other things, *Muntz* 16588.

M.

M'Dougal, Archibald. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Farming 2000 acres at Cessford, in Roxburghshire, on the estates of the Duke of Roxburghe, 14509–14510——Tenantry in Roxburgh are in as comfortable circumstances as they were ever known to be, 14513——Improvements are carried on with great spirit, generally at the expense of the tenant, the landlord sometimes assisting, 14514, 14515——The tenants all have leases, mostly for nineteen or twenty-one years, 14516, 14517——There are some grain-rents, but they are most generally money-rents, 14518——Farms in the market, in the last two years, have advanced in rent, 14519——Great variety of soil on witness's farm; manner in which it is separated in valuing for rent, 14520–14522——Local charges are very trifling, 14524, 14525——Considerable extent of wheat grown, but from the prices of it, not being equal to other grains it has decreased, and barley and oats have been substituted, 14526–14528——Course of cultivation, 14529.

Manure principally used after potatoes, 14530——Bone dust is extremely beneficial, but is only applicable to the gravel or light soils, and not to clay lands, 14531, 14532——Furrow-draining not advantageous on a moor with a close retentive sub-soil, 14533–14539——Labouring population are very comfortable; manner of paying and employing them, 14540–14542——Value of property remains much about the same as within the last few years; from twenty-six to twenty-seven years' purchase, 14546——Reduction of rent since the peace, 14547, 14548——Acreable produce of wheat on a mixed soil, 14549–14551——From 6*s.* 6*d.* to 7*s.* would be remunerative for wheat, with economical cultivation, 14552——Agriculture fell back in Scotland for eight or ten years after 1820, from deficiency of employment, and want of spirit and capital among farmers, 14553, 14554.

Present rents can be maintained with wheat at 6*s.*, 14555–14557——Good effect of lime, particularly on clay soils, 14558–14563——Grazing has paid well in the last two years, 14564——Cattle sent to Morpeth market, and from thence conveyed into the manufacturing districts, 14566——Agricultural Association have now established markets in Scotland, which is the best thing that has been done, 14566, 14567——Reducing the duty on clover-seed is the only thing the legislature can do for the benefit of the Scotch farmers, 14568–14579——Immense improvements in roads of late years, though the cross roads are not under good management, 14580–14582——Twenty-eight bushels can be obtained on wheat land generally, which will be maintained in cultivation with present rents, at 6*s.*, 14583–14586——Period from whence the rise in agriculture may be dated in Scotland, 14587, 14588.

Machinery. Very little machinery applied to agriculture which has been of any use, *Jacob* 271——Poor Law Bill will allow farmers to use machinery to a great extent, *Fison* 12667——Machinery may be applied to cheapening production in agriculture as well as manufactures, *Smith* 15103–15105; Earl of *Radnor,* 16850.

Magistrates. See *County Rates,* 3.

Malt. Quantity of corn and malt sent coastwise from Scotland to England in ten years, ending 5th January 1836, *App. III., p.* 547——Total quantity of corn and malt sent coastwise from England to Scotland in ten years, ending January 1836, *App. III.* 556.

See *Beer. Irish Malt. Smuggling. Spirits.*

Malt Duty:

1. *Generally, and amount of revenue derived from it.*
2. *Excise regulations as affecting Maltsters.*
3. *Advantages and disadvantages of its repeal.*
4. *Objections to proposed equivalents for its repeal.*
5. *Effect of its repeal on the growth and consumption of Barley.*
6. *Advantages and disadvantages of a reduction, and amount proposed to prevent evasion of the duty.*

1. *Generally, and amount of revenue derived from.*

Large export trade in malt from this country formerly, *Calthrop* 8028——When the duty was low, labourers used to make their own malt and brew their own beer, *Brickwell* 651——There would be a greater tendency to consume malt if labourers allowed to brew their own beer, *Bickerton* 8796–8802——Farmers were prosperous when the malt duty was double what it now is; it is not now the cause of their adversity, *Cortis* 1845–1847——The malt tax is paid by the consumer and not by the farmer, *Howard* 5543, 5544——It is an exceedingly productive tax, *Howard* 5562, 5563——Amount produced to the revenue from the malt duty, *Neave* 9395——The cost of collection cannot be ascertained, it being connected with other articles under excise, *Hetherington* 9210.

2. *Excise regulations as affecting Maltsters.*

In some states of the weather the malt may require water sooner than the regulations allow, *Hetherington* 9216——Advantage derived by maltsters from increase in wetting, *Thurnall* 2497–2501——Alteration in the floor charge to maltsters made in 1828 may be injurious when the process hurried by the state of temperature, *Dunlop* 9176–9179——Restrictions on malting are more felt than the amount of duty, but if they were taken off it might tend to the illicit distillation of whisky, *Robertson* 13657–13661——Inconvenience of the excise regulation as to malting barley is not great; if inferior barley allowed to be wetted, it might be malted, *Bowyer* 3573–3575; *Tillyer* 4258——Memorial from maltsters that during the last three years they have paid more duty than the law requires, *Thurnall* 2502–2504——For the last two years witness has paid duty for more bushels of malt than he has made, *Bowyer* 3621, 3622——Opinion upon the alteration of the allowance to maltsters in 1828; complaints by maltsters working for the London market that they cannot make an equal measure of malt for which they are charged with duty, *Hetherington* 9219, 9220——Complaints by maltsters in Herefordshire, Essex, Norwich and Ipswich, of duty being paid on more malt than was made, *Hetherington* 9221–9226.

3. *Advantages and disadvantages of its repeal.*

Advantages that would be derived by the agriculturists from the repeal of the malt duty, *Brickwell* 572–579, 651; *Rolfe* 1412, 1672–1676, 1680, 1681, 1732–1734; *Cortis* 1787–1791, 1868–1871, 1898–1909; *Thurnall* 2458–2466; *Page* 2695–2708; *Smallpiece* 3168–3171; *Bowyer* 3477, 3548; *Ellman* 4558–4569, 4726–4729, 4808–4810; *Sanders* 6754–6756; *Calthrop* 7916; *Bickerton* 8709–8712, 8792–8802; *Neave* 9363-9367, 9383–9385; *Cramp* 9577, 9578; *Hancock* 11302; *Stares* 11672–11678, 11719–11721, 11729–11733; *Bell* 12080–12084; *Parker* 12607, 12609, 12610, 12615–12622; *Crowther* 13069–13076; *Boniface* 13276–13280, 13288–13291; *Freeland* 14931–14935; *Spooner* 15865–15910——Per centage of benefit the repeal of the malt tax would be, *Cortis* 1787–1791, 1868–1871; *Thurnall* 2458–2466; *Page* 2695–2708——The malt tax should be repealed at all risks, except the risk of the corn laws, *Boniface* 13288–13291.

It would give a higher price for wheat, *Cortis* 1900, 1908, 1909——Repeal of, would be a greater benefit to farmers than allowing them the unrestricted use of barley, *Ellman* 4558-4569, 4726-4729, 4808-4810——It would have been better that the tax should have been left on beer and taken off malt, *Stares* 11719–11721——No tax so annoying as the malt tax; annual amount of saving by its repeal, *Stares* 11729–11733——Its repeal would be beneficial, particularly to the hop farmers, *Neave* 9363–9367, 9383–9385——Repealing it would cause farmers to have more domestics in their houses, and cause labourers to brew their own beer, *Bickerton* 8792–8795——Amount gained by abolition of, would not be added to rent, *Rolfe* 1732–1734——Its repeal would not be a great relief, *Smallpiece* 3168–3171; *Bennett* 8303–8312——Its removal would not be any relief to the farmer on clay lands, *Byron* 8414, 8415——Removing it would not benefit the agriculturist, *Goodman* 11070.

4. *Objections to proposed equivalents for its repeal.*

Five millions of other taxes could not be laid on as an equivalent for it, *Bickerton* 8787–8791——Some other tax must be imposed in lieu of the malt tax, and some other interest must suffer, *Bell* 12080–12084——Objection to the repeal of the duty on foreign barley as the consideration of the repeal of the malt duty, *Rolfe* 1735; *Cortis* 1863–1865; *Tillyer* 4263–4268; *Calthrop* 7909–7916; *Bickerton* 8773–8784——Opinion in favour of taking off the duty on foreign barley, *Stares* 11675——Objection to a property or income tax in lieu of the malt duty, *Bickerton* 8787–8791; *Neave* 9398–9399; *Cramp* 9579——It should not be imposed till the last necessity, *Bell* 12085——Opinion in favour of the substitution of a property tax, *Rolfe* 1736–1738; *Stares* 11673.

Malt Duty:—continued.

5. *Effect of its repeal on the growth and consumption of Barley.*

Consumption of barley would be increased, *Brickwell* 572–579; *Cortis* 1898——Consumption more than the growth, *Cortis* 1898——Repeal or reduction would increase the growth of barley, *Rolfe* 1672–1676; *Page* 2695–2708; *Bowyer* 3465; *Ellman* 4599–4605; *Howard* 5562; *Bickerton* 8707–8712, 8773–8784; *Cramp* 9577–9578; *Hancock* 11302; *Stares* 11672–11678, 11716–11718; *Fison* 12675, 12676; *Crowther* 12898, 12899, 13000–13003, 13069–13076——Grounds for supposing that a repeal of the malt tax would increase the price of barley, *Rolfe* 1739——Inferior barley shipped to Scotland for distilling which if the malt duty were reduced would be malted before being used by distillers, *Bowyer* 3477——Would cause a different description of barley to be used, *Rolfe* 1676–1679; *Bowyer* 3477; *Bennett* 8303–8312.

6. *Advantages and disadvantages of a reduction, and amount proposed to prevent evasion of duty.*

Advantage of a reduction of, *Bickerton* 8709–8712; *Parker* 12607–12609, 12610, 12615–12622; *Crowther* 13004, 13005; *Spooner* 15915, 15916——High rate of duty injurious to the consumption of malt shown by the quantity of malt brought to charge not having increased in proportion to the increased wealth and population of the country, *Dunlop* 9149——Part of it might be taken off without injury to the revenue, *Bickerton* 8773–8784——If the duty reduced so as not to afford a sufficient inducement to evade it, the increased consumption would be so great that the revenue would not sustain loss, *Dunlop* 9149——Reduction of 5*s.* or 10*s.* on the duty would not be sufficient to prevent evasion, *Dunlop* 9150, 9151——If reduced to 8*s.* a quarter the duty would not be evaded, and the consumption would be greatly increased, *Dunlop* 9151–9155——Barley half malted is exposed for public sale in Mark Lane; evasion of the duty takes place in every stage of the process, *Dunlop* 9155-9160——Distillers and brewers would use more malt than they do if the duty reduced to 1*s.* a bushel, *Dunlop* 9161–9164.

Increased consumption of malt in Scotland arose from reducing the duty which also put an end to smuggling; reducing the duty in England would have the same effect on consumption, and put an end to smuggling foreign spirits, *Dunlop* 9190–9193, 9202——Where the rate of duty is less, the inducement to fraud is less, *Hetherington* 9211——The excise do not suppose they get all the duty, *Hetherington* 9212——Reduction of one-half would occasion loss to the revenue without corresponding benefit, *Spooner* 15865–15910——Farmers would use malt for cattle if they had but half the duty to pay, *Spooner* 15915, 15916——Half the duty should be taken off; reduction of 5*s.* would not enable farmers to brew for their labourers; reduction of 10*s.* would, *Neave* 9400–9409——If there cannot be repeal there should be no reduction, *Cramp* 9580——Price of malt manufactured, and of what the expenses of malting consist, *Thurnall* 2484–2496——It refines but does not add to the quantity or increase the strength, *Dunlop* 9165, 9166, 9172–9175, 9183.

See also *Agricultural Distress*, 6. *Barley, I. Beer Duty. Beer Shops. Cider. Currency*, 4. *Illicit Distillation. Irish Malt. Wages*, 3.

Malthus's "Political Economy." See *Manufacturing Interest.*

Malting Barley. See *Barley, V. Cattle.*

Malt Meshes are very beneficial for horses, but are too expensive to be used to a great extent, *Rolfe* 1677, 1678.

Maltsters. See *Malt Duty*, 2.

Mangel Wurzel. See *Clay Lands*, 5.

Mansfield, Lord. See *Corn Rents.*

Manufacturers. See *Agricultural Produce. Cash Payments.*

Manufacturing, Commercial and Agricultural Interests. Comparative state thereof, *Spooner* 15826–15833.

Manufacturing Districts. Bills form the chief circulation of manufacturing districts, *Burgess* 15938——Distress in the manufacturing districts, 1829–1832, is a repetition of that of 1819–1822, *Muntz* 16438, 16439——How far an intention of removing surplus labourers to manufacturing districts, *Jacob* 291–300——The present demand for labour for the manufacturing interests is very great, *Robertson* 13718——Employment of agricultural labourers in, from Bedfordshire, *Bennett* 8194–8197, 8372–8374; from the Isle of Thanet, *Cramp* 5983; from Ayrshire, *Brown* 12254——Those who have migrated from agricultural parishes in Bucks have not gained much, *Brickwell* 661——Migration of labourers to manufacturing districts who have families suitable; the expense is great, and but few families have gone, *Cooper* 5770, 5771, 5780–5786——Migration to, causes those who remain to be better off, *Bennett* 8276–8279.

Labourers who have gone into the manufacturing districts have been prosperous; there is a great desire on the part of others to go, but judgment is required in sending them, *Bennett* 8313–8318——Great decrease in the rate of wages in manufacturing districts, *Langhorn* 9022——Agricultural labourers are unfit for manufacturing districts, *Cramp*

Manufacturing Districts—continued.

9591——Migration to the manufacturing districts has been promoted by the Poor Law Bill, *Fison* 12658–12660——Migration of one man and his family to the manufacturing districts; doubts as to his success, *Boniface* 13162–13167.

See also *Joint Stock Banks. Scotch Cattle.*

Manufacturing Interest. Insecurity to prosperity and Government if all the interests of the country are made subordinate to the manufacturing interest; to be dependent upon a foreign supply for corn with a fixed duty of 8*s.*, *Sanders* 7142–7145——Concurrence in the opinions expressed in Malthus's "Political Economy," as to the increased proportion of manufacturing population, with reference to the happiness and liberty of the country, *Sanders* 7159, 7160——Capital employed in the construction of mills in Lancashire and Yorkshire does not show prosperity; accumulation of capital in the hands of a few frequently accompanies the decline of commercial nations, *Muntz* 16603–16610——Circumstances that affect manufactures, as regards distress or prosperity, particularly with regard to foreign markets, Earl *Radnor* 16764–16768.

Distress of 1819 did not affect the farmers so soon as the manufacturers and the merchants, *Spooner* 15607–15609——Reason the manufacturing interest suffered first and most extensively from the effects of the measure of 1819, *Burgess* 15987–15995——Sufferings of the manufacturers from returning to a wrong standard of value have been nearly tenfold, as compared with farmers; farmers are only just beginning to feel it; they do not yet half know their distress, *Muntz* 16504, 16505.

Manufacturing interests in the north have been unusually prosperous for a series of years, *Cooper* 5735; *Hodgson* 6530, 6602; *Sanders* 6759——Manufacturers have been for some time past in a thriving condition on a wholesome foundation, Earl *Radnor* 16726——Prosperity of the manufacturing interests not to be attributed solely to the establishment of joint stock banks, *Scott* 5129–5144——Manufacturing prosperity arises from speculations and being bolstered up by joint stock banks, but it will not continue, *Langhorn* 9031–9034——Properity of the agriculturist attributed to the great extension of manufactures, *Burgess* 15966——How far the high price of wool and meat to be attributed to the prosperity of the manufacturing interest, *Smallpiece* 3057——A scarce harvest would not be advantageous to the manufacturing interest, *Ellis* 10804——Orders for manufactured goods have been countermanded in Birmingham, *Spooner* 15648–15651——Many manufacturers who have been carrying on an extensive business have been losing money and are in a situation of ruin, *Muntz* 16525–16532——Neither agriculturists nor manufacturers are prosperous at the present moment, *Muntz* 16691.

See also *Agricultural and Manufacturing Interests. Corn Laws. County Rate*, 3. *Currency. Distress. Ireland. Joint Stock Banks. Labouring Classes. Poor Law Amendment Act. Poor Rates*, 2. *Price of Corn*, 10. *Raw Materials. Standard of Value. Wages*, 1. *War. Wool.*

Manufacturing Property. Unfair manner in which this property is rated to the local burthens, *David* 4360, 4361, 4397, 4398.

Manure. Witness frequently lays out two or three hundred pounds in light manure, *Thurnall* 2455——No means of making manure on farms in Essex; artificial means sometimes used, that of buying chalk and dung, *Babbs* 3265, 3266——There was more London manure used in Essex seventeen years ago than at present, *Babbs* 3354——It Huntingdonshire the manure that is used is nearly all produced on the land, *Bowyer* 3522–3524——London manure made use of at Bedfont, so that there are not fallows; the land is all cropped, *Sherborn* 4004——Quantity of bones, fold-yard manure and marl employed on wold land, *Iles* 7415–7418——Amount required to be laid out for manure, *Bell* 11856–11859——More lime and other manure used in the neighbourhood of Leicester than twenty-five years ago, *Ellis* 10725, 10726——Amount paid for manure, but which would have been of no use but for the draining, *Goodman* 11061–11065——Is only used for potato crops in Kildare, *Shawe* 14273–14276——Is principally used after potatoes in Roxburgh, *M'Dougal* 14530——Advantages of manure for land, and the house-feeding of cattle for that purpose, *Blacker* 15395, 15396.

See also *Bone Manure. Bullocks. Cattle*, 1. *Chalk. Clay Lands*, 8. *Cropping. Fish Manure. Lime. Metropolitan Farms. Produce of Corn. Rags. Rape Dust, &c. Sea Weed. Toll Dues on Manure.*

Markets. Markets to which produce sent from Bedfont, *Sherborn* 4062–4064——The markets to which witness sends his produce are Merthyr and Bristol, the one twenty, the other forty miles, *David* 4368–4373——Deliveries of wheat at market immediately after harvest is not always an index to the state of farmers, *Calthrop* 7788——Quantity of corn sent to market since last harvest has been unusually large, *Calthrop* 7789——Agricultural Association have now established markets in Scotland, which is the best thing that has been done, *M'Dougal* 14566, 14567.

Marling. Advantages of marling the land; expense of marling and bones, *Atkinson* 5829–5835——Is not used on all clay lands, *Atkinson* 5838——Cost of marling land per acre, *Iles* 7422.

Marlborough, Duke of. The Duke of Marlborough's pension was charged with the 4*s.* in the pound; land tax period when it is supposed to have first so charged, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9118–9121.

Marriages. Paying single men lower wages than married men has had the effect of causing improvident marriages, *Boniface* 13266–13269.

Marsh Land. Marshes in Essex have produced no grass for the last two years from the dryness of the season, *Kemp* 2253——Is paid for partly in the profit upon stock, *Cooper* 5662, 5663——Rent of marsh land, *Parker* 12399——Advantage of having a portion of marsh land attached to a farm, *Parker* 12400, 12536–12539——Description of marsh land that the subsoil plough would not be applicable to, *Smith* 15171.

Maryland, Parish, Essex. There are several farms in this parish untenanted, *Kemp* 2044.

Marylebone. Very lightly assessed to the land tax, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9127, 9128.

Mayo Agricultural Society. Agricultural school in Mayo is a failure, *Clarke* 13897–13899.

Measure of Value. Wheat is a better measure of value upon a long tract of time than money, *Howard* 5467–5469.

See also *Loch*, Mr.

Meat. Price of, at Christmas 1835, in Buckinghamshire, *Brickwell* 361–365; *Kemp* 1950–1957 —— Price of, satisfactory in Middlesex, *Morton* 3664; *Tillyer* 4198 —— Price that would be remunerative, *Thurnall* 2553–2558——Rise in the price of, *Houghton* 687——Caused by the rot, *Bowyer* 2544; *Smallpiece* 2904–2911——By scarcity, *David* 4300——By increased prosperity of the iron trade and manufacturing and commercial interest, *David* 4430–4432; *Bell* 12021–12025——By failure of turnip crop, *Bickerton* 8699, 8700; *Hancock* 11367, 11368; *Parker* 12540–12543; *Robertson* 13675, 13676——By opening the London market to the farmers of Scotland, *Robertson* 13675, 13676——By the badness of the season, Earl of *Radnor* 16728——By the want of capital of the farmer, *Burgess* 16083——Will be as cheap again next summer as it was last year, *Brickwell* 545–548 —— High price of meat is no recompence for a failure in the turnip crop, *Thurnall* 2297–2302; *Parker* 12540–12543—— A great deal more meat raised in Surrey than formerly, *Smallpiece* 3057——Labourers have consumed more meat since the low price, *Sherborn*, 4079.

See also *Bacon. Beef. Buckingham Union. Manufacturing Interest. Mutton. Sheep.*

Meath, County. Less wheat sown there this year than last, *Sanders* 6037.

Menzies, William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Factor of estates in Kinross-shire, Perthshire and Kincardineshire, belonging to Viscount Keith's trustees and to Baroness Keith, extending over 18,000 Scotch acres, 13943–13945——Tenantry are in good condition, they are thriving and improving their lands, 13946——Duration of leases, 13947, 13948 ——Parties paying corn-rents have not suffered from the diminished price of corn, 13949–13952——Description of soil and produce of alluvial soils, 13953–13955——Advantages of laying down land in permanent pasture; amount of money-rent paid for it when let as grass parks, 13956–13970——Number of acres of land taken from the sea; it is very productive; average rent per acre; farmed on the six-shift rotation; produce per acre, 13971–13987——Drainings and other improvements in the districts with which witness is acquainted are going on progressively and rapidly, 13988——Farms out of lease and re-let have fetched better rents from improvements made, 13989–13992——Improvements, consisting of draining and inclosing, were paid for jointly by landlord and tenant, 13993–13995——Expense of sub-soil ploughing per acre, and profit thereon at the end of two years, 13996–14006——Particulars as to the mode of sub-soil ploughing adopted by Mr. Smith, of Deanston, and advantages of that system, 14007, 14038.

Description of embankment used in reclaiming land from the sea, and period it remained before it was cropped, 14039–14042——In the district from Alloa to Aberdeen much land has been reclaimed and improved in the last twenty years, and the general culture greatly improved, 14043, 14044——Produce of wheat in the whole district is on the increase from the thorough draining, 14045–14047——Process of clearing mosses is still continued in the strath of Stirling, which adds to the produce of the district, 14048–14057——Farmers are generally contented where the rents are adjusted to the prices, 14058-14063, 14097–14101——Labourers are in as comfortable circumstances as they have ever been; they would not be so well off with war prices and war wages, 14064–14067——Farmers would rather have war prices, but it is more to their interest to be on their present footing. 14068–14071——Sixty shillings to sixty-four shillings would be remunerating for wheat, 14073, 14074——Parochial taxes are very low, 14077-14079——Shipping cattle to London by steam is increasing, the manure caused by the breeding of which increases the produce of the land, 14082–14089.

Advantages of the Scotch one-pound notes; they do not keep up the prices of Scotland above the level of England, considering the free interchange of commodities between the two countries, 14090–14095——Rise in agriculture in Scotland to be dated from the first establishment

Menzies, William. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

establishment of national banking, 14096——Corn-rents rise and fall according to the price of corn, 14100, 14101——Produce of wheat upon fair mixed land, 14102——If the price of wheat does not range beyond 50*s.* it will only be grown on the finest soils; on the others it will be superseded by barley, 14103–14105——Red wheat now grown on land in Scotland, if well prepared, where oats were grown with difficulty twenty years ago, 14106–14108——Whether landed proprietors would have invested capital in the improvement of their estates had they expected wheat to fall to 50*s.*; there is no reason to expect prices will be much higher, 14109, 14110.

Merino Sheep. Considerable loss sustained from farming with, instead of an ordinary flock of sheep, *Hall* 4953–4960.

Mercantile Interest. See *Silver Standard.*

Metropolis, Farms near, or near Towns. Advantages as to manure for farms in the neighbourhood of London, *Sherborn* 4031; *Tillyer* 4244–4255——Being within twenty miles of Edinburgh, is advantageous, though both wheat and malt now come to the London market, *Hope* 9837–9840——Advantage to witness of living near the town of Leicester, *Ellis* 10760, 10761, 10765–10768——Farms in the neighbourhood of towns are advantageous, and more rent is paid for them, *Crowther* 12962–12965.

See also *Produce of Corn.*

Middlemen. Number of middlemen in Ireland diminished within forty or fifty years, since the 40*s.* freeholders commenced, *Brassington* 14603——Middlemen being done away with will be advantageous to the poorer classes, where the landlords let at a moderate rent, *Brassington* 14624.

Middlesex. Assessment on Middlesex, and particularly as regards personal property, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9141, 9142.

Milk. Average quantity of milk given annually by an Ayrshire cow, *Brown* 12230, 12231.

Millers. Manner in which millers have been hurt by the foreign export to the colonies; comparative advantages of the large over the small millers, *Frean* 15264–15274.

See also *Flour. Stock of Corn on Hand.*

Mills. See *Manufacturing Interest.*

Mines. With the exception of coal, mineral property is not liable to parochial rates, *David* 4326.

Monteith, Mr. The improvements on his estate commenced previous to 1819, and are still going on, *Church* 13558, 13559.

Montrose. Is a great exporting port, *Robertson* 13653.

Mortgages. The expense of changing them, causes a reduction in the interest to be some time before it is felt, *Houghton,* 884, 885——Not so many small mortgages in the agricultural world as is supposed, *Houghton* 886, 887——Purchasers of small freeholds leaving part of the purchase-money on mortgage are worse off than others, *Calthrop* 7902, 7903——Great many of the estates of small proprietors are heavily mortgaged, *Hancock* 11311——Effect of the depreciated currency on mortgages and other liabilities, *Muntz* 16668–16675——Manner in which the resumption of gold payments caused ruin to those who had mortgaged or purchased property during the dear times, *Houghton* 1192–1204——Whether the change from war prices, purchase of another estate, losses, &c., did not affect the person whose mortgage was foreclosed as well as the altered currency, *Houghton,* 1228–1262.

See also *Cheshire. Creditors. Gold Standard.*

Morton, Henry. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Resides at Denham, 3642——Farms about 2000 acres, 3646——Condition of farmers worse off now than five or six years ago and since 1833, caused by the low price of wheat and of Malt Bill last year, 3657–3663——Sixty shillings a quarter for wheat would be a remunerating price, 3669–3755——Witness employs as much labour now as formerly, 3671——Rate of wages 12*s.* to 13*s.* per week, 3673——Capital of farmers diminished, 3675–3679——Reduction of rents, 3680, 3720, 3733——Difficulty of letting clay lands, 3681–3684——State of agriculture worse than formerly and within six years, 3685–3687——Relief which farmers would receive from free use of barley in malting, 3694–3698.

Breadth of wheat sown of late years not increased, 3722——Price of wool, 3723——Effect on farmers in witness's district, owing to hay brought to London markets by canals and the interference of Irish oats, 3734–3736, 3746——Price of wheat and interference of Irish oats are the only agricultural articles of which witness has cause to complain, 3756–3758——Great depression on the price of timber and underwood, 3774——Consumption of wheat is reduced, 3789, 3791, 3792——Attributed to the increased consumption of potatoes, 3792——Labourers were never so well off as now, 3794–3830——Evidence as to price of wheat, and its influence on the rate of wages, 3807–3824——Rate of wages, 3825–3829.

Morton, Henry. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

Effect of the Poor Law Act on out-residents 3840–3843——Effect of the rot on the price of wool, 3852–3864——Labourers consume less bread, but their food generally improved, 3927–3930——Average weight of last year's crop heavy, compared with 1833 and 1834, 3949–3952——No advantage to the farming interest to take off the duty on clover-seed, 3984, 3985——Witness knows of no remedy for present distress of farmers except malting their own barley and the alteration of a few local taxes, 3987–3989.

Moss Land. Particulars as to draining and otherwise improving a flow-moss of Mr. Buchanan, of Catrine Bank; expense per acre, and nature of the crops obtained since, *Brown* 12208–12222——Process of clearing mosses is still continuing in the strath of Stirling, which adds to the produce of the district, *Menzies* 14048–14057——Quantity of moss land in Scotland capable of improvement, and attempts made by capitalists to improve it; cost per acre, *Smith* 15118–15146.

See *Steam Plough.*

Muntz, George Frederick. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Merchant and proprietor of an establishment for rolling metals, in Birmingham, 16327–16330——Prices nominally higher in 1808 than at present, caused by the deviation from the old standard by the Bank Restriction Act of 1797, 16331–16340——Effect of the Bank Restriction Act on prices, 16341–16345——Manner in which it operated on the exchanges with foreign countries, as regards export of British manufactures, 16346–16350——Effect of the depreciated currency in causing a rise in the price of gold, and why it did not rise so soon, or in the same ratio as other property, 16351–16359——War does not tend to raise prices, except as regards those articles used extensively by Government, 16361–16365——Prices were higher from 1801 to 1804 than from 1808 to 1814, 16364–16369——War increases taxation, and prevents so large a consumption of produce as in peace, 16369–16371——Circumstances that caused the fall in prices after 1815, other than the cessation of the war, 16372–26374——Adversity caused to the agricultural classes, by the contraction of the bank issues after 1815 preparatory to paying in gold, 16373–16377.

Raising the value of money may bring foreign corn in at half price, 16377–16380——Distress in 1815 and 1816, and disturbances in consequence, 16381–16384——Improvement in 1817 and 1818 from suspending the payment in gold, and keeping more money in circulation, 16385–16393——Advance of prices in 1818 could not last, being an advance on a gold standard, which would prevent manufacturers competing with the continent, or the gold remaining in the country, 16394, 16395——Contraction of the bank issues in 1818, in anticipation of the measure of 1819, and effect on prices, 16396, 16397——Effect of Mr. Peel's Bill of 1819, which was not the cause of reduced prices, 16398–16403——Gradually increasing distress, 1818 to 1823, which ended with the issue of one-pound notes in 1823, 16404–16409——Prosperity 1823–1825 did not last, gold not rising with other commodities, 16410, 16411——Withdrawal of gold causes withdrawal of bank circulation, and causes a return to low or gold prices, 16411–16414——Present gold standard price of wheat, and by what affected, 16415–16419.

The bank should be allowed to pay in gold at the market price; limit that should be put upon depreciation; trifling effect it would have upon existing contracts, 19421–19426——Small advantage that persons with fixed incomes have gained by low prices; the fall has not extended so much to retail as wholesale prices, 16427–16435——Causes why the price of agricultural produce does not fall so suddenly as manufacturing produce, 16437——Distress in the manufacturing districts, 1829–1832, is a repetition of that of 1819–1822, 16438, 16439——Mode of discount adopted by the joint stock banks, and manner in which they supersede the Bank of England and private banks, 16440–16444——Speculations of the present day will end in the same manner as those of 1825, but, being internal, will not take the money out of the country so fast, 16445–16448——The political disturbances of 1830, which passed the Reform Bill, occasioned by low prices, 16449–16451——Formation of the Birmingham Political Union was in consequence of distress, and the opinion that Government did not attend to the wants of the people, 16452–16457.

Bad effects of the Corn Bill, and opinion that it would not remain six months without the Money Bill, or that without the Corn Bill, 16458–16463——Measure recommended for relieve is the bringing the gold standard in conformity with the debt, the taxation and the necessities of the country, 16464–16467——Advantages of a silver standard, which should not be fixed, but should find its own level, 16468–16475——If taxation paid in produce, it is as high now as during the war, 16476–16479——One-pound notes should be established, 16480——Gold goes out as fast now as when one-pound notes were in use, and will all go if prices continue to rise, 16482–16483——Effect, that taking silver at the coinage price, with one-pound notes added, would have on prices, 16484——Effect of the relaxation of the standard price of silver by the law against melting, and the export of gold, 16485–16491——Export trade reducing from the present rise of prices, though that trade would be increased if prices rose from a variation in the standard, 16492–16495——Nominal increase of exports is the reverse of a test of prosperity, 16496–16497.

Fall in prices from the resumption of cash payments has been injurious to small capitalists, advantageous to some large ones, and been prejudicial to all the industrious classes, 16498–16500——Sufferings of the manufacturers from returning to a wrong standard of value have been nearly ten-fold as compared with farmers; farmers are only just beginning to feel it; they do not yet half know their distress, 16504, 16505——Articles of

Muntz, George Frederick. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

agricultural produce that have been high compared with wheat, 16506–16509——Complaints by farmers of not being able to reduce their retail expenses, 16511–16513——In a few years there will be no rent upon the average land of the kingdom; the expense of cultivation will take the produce, the land will be thrown out of cultivation, and there will be a state of starvation, 16513–16517——Circumstances that cause an extended circulation to produce an advance in price, 16518——Labourers as well off before the end of the war as now; they are now complaining of the late rise in the prices of provisions, 16519–16525——Trade is not prosperous, there has been no profit latterly, 16525——Many manufacturers who have been carrying on an extensive business have been losing money, and are in a situation of ruin, 16525–16532 ——Wheat cannot be kept up at 8*s.* a bushel, unless it be a nominal price, 16533–16538.

Manner in which the trade of Birmingham has increased in the last two years; mode by which business is carried on between America and Birmingham, 16539–16557——Want of profit on Birmingham manufactures is caused by competition with the continent, 16558–16561——Effect of depreciating the currency one-half on the prices of commodities here and in foreign countries, 15562–16581——Effect of it on labourers' wages, 16582–16585——Effect on servants' wages, 16586–16589——Average price of wheat from 1795–1819, showing whether the necessaries of life have fallen above 30 per cent. or not, 16590–16595——Impossibility of labourers remaining prosperous if the manufacturers are paying wages out of capital, 16596–16602.

Capital employed in the construction of mills in Lancashire and Yorkshire does not show prosperity; accumulation of capital in the hands of a few frequently accompanies the decline of commercial nations, 16603–16610——Political character of the town of Birmingham has only altered from their depressed circumstances, 16611–16614——Labouring classes joined the political unions from their deteriorated circumstances, in some instances having suffered 75 per cent. reduction in wages, 16615–16620——Reduction of taxation a mere delusion; salaries have been put on to a greater extent than taken off, 16621–16623——Injurious effects of the corn laws on the productive classes; they cannot permanently keep up the intended price, 16624–16628——Evils of the present speculative advance in prices, and manner in which it causes Birmingham manufactures to be superseded by the continent, 16633–16637.

Manner in which depreciating the standard would keep up prices here, and lower those abroad; also showing the effect on exchanges, 16638–16650——Effect of the loss of the export trade on manufacturing labourers, particularly if the price of agricultural produce rises, 16651–16661——Effect of the depreciated currency on gaining the Spanish market at a profit, 16662–16668——Effect of the depreciated currency on mortgages and other liabilities, 16668–16675——Extent of reduction that has taken place in the price of different articles of consumption since the war, 16678–16683——Return to gold payments acted as a fraud upon debtors, 16686–16689——Trade is not prosperous, from the circumstance of a great deal being doing; the continent is every day superseding us, 16690——Neither agriculturists nor manufacturers are prosperous at the present moment, 16691.

Mustard Seed. Prohibitory duty on, causes its growth in this country; description of land which suits it; produce per acre; low price at present from abundant crops; price that has been paid for it, *Calthrop* 7917–7927.

Mutton. Price of per lb. in Buckingham market, *Brickwell* 362——At Cardiff market, *David* 4376——Price of, not complained of now, *Houghton* 1012——Is remunerative, *Cooper* 5659; *Umbers* 8477–8479——Rise in price caused by the rot, *Houghton* 1054–1062; *Rolfe* 1514–1523; *David* 4298——By the failure of the turnip crop, *Rolfe* 1514–1523; *Cortis* 1814–1819; *Ellman* 4616–4619; *Crowther* 13007——By increased consumption, *Crowther* 13007——Price of, is now better, but the scarcity of winter fodder prevents the sheep weighing so much, *Morton* 3865–3867; *Umbers* 8477–8479; *Crowther* 13007——Great quantity of mutton sent from Scotland to the London market, *Oliphant* 11145——Price of mutton fell during the rot, as all the sheep went to market, *Crowther* 12861–12875.

See also *Price of Corn*, 3.

N.

Nantes. Fine quality of the barley grown at Nantes, *Calthrop* 8025–8027.

See also *Barley, IV. Chevalier Barley.*

National Banks. Rise in agriculture in Scotland to be dated from the first establishment of national banking, *Menzies* 14096.

Navy. Foreign coin is not used by the navy, *Hayes* 17339.

Neave, Thomas. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Grazier, farmer and land agent at Benenden, in Kent, 9333, 9334——Farmers depending solely on corn on the stiff clays, between Tenterden and Tonbridge Wells, are worse off than in 1833; those growing hops are in rather a better situation, 9336–9340——Improvements by draining, particularly since the introduction of the drain plough; they are done at the expense of the farmer, 9341–9346——Arcable produce has increased from the improvements being acted on by the late

Neave, Thomas. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—*continued.*

late dry seasons, 9347-9351——Price for oats that would be remunerating, 9352–9356——It is considered that the poor-rates will be considerably diminished by the operation of the Poor Law Bill, 9357-9360——Labourers never better off as regards wages, compared with the price of provisions, 9362, 9419——Repeal of the malt duty would be beneficial, particularly to the hop farmers, 9363–9367, 9383–9385——Farmers having the privilege of malting barley free of duty would be advantageous, 9368–9372——Reduction of duty on clover-seed would be rather a disadvantage; clover is grown too frequently, 9373–9382——Assessed taxes do not bear to any extent on the farmer, 9386–9388.

Clay lands have not been worse off than others during the late fine seasons, 9389–9391——Malt tax had better be continued than a property tax substituted for it, 9398, 9399——Half the duty should be taken off; reduction of 5*s.* would not enable farmers to brew for their labourers; reduction of 10*s.* would, 9400–9409——Rents have been better paid during the last two or three years from the good crops, 9410–9412——Landlords have endeavoured to meet their tenants with regard to reduction of rent, 9413, 9414——Rate of cottage rents, 9415–9418——Wages would not be reduced if 10*s.* was taken off the malt duty, 9420, 9421——Rate of composition for tithe on arable land, 9422–9426——Commutation and permanent rent-charge would be advantageous; the commutation should not be upon the value of the produce for the last seven years, 9427–9435——Further evidence on the advantages of draining, particularly as regards arable land, 9436–9447——Three pounds or three pounds three shillings remunerating for wheat, 9448——Complaints by tradesmen that they cannot get their bills, 9450, 9451——Advantage of Pearson's plough for draining; expense per acre of its use, 9452–9463——Number of horses used in ploughing, 9464–9468——Application of the windlass to the draining plough has been tried in Nottinghamshire with effect, 9469–9471——Nature of the drain formed, 9472–9476.

Necessaries of Life. Consumption of commodities greater now than formerly, *Jacob* 244——Reduction in the price of, in Hungtingdonshire, *Bowyer* 3624–3626——Average price of wheat from 1795-1819, showing whether the necessaries of life have fallen above 30 per cent. or not, *Muntz* 16590–16595——Extent of reduction that has taken place in the price of the different articles of consumption since the war, *Muntz* 16678–16683.

See also *Agricultural Labourers*, 4. *Provisions. Wages*, 2.

Nene Outfall. Great advantages to agriculture from the drainage of, *Calthrop* 7990–7998.

Newspapers. Newspapers and other publications have caused greater attention to be paid to the currency than formerly, *Umbers* 8648–8655——Reducing the duty on newspapers would not be beneficial to any person but the vender, *Parker* 12608.

Newton Longville. Farm at, on a soil not strong enough to grow beans, let at 10*s.* an acre, and tenant in arrear, *Brickwell* 432–436.

Norfolk. More got by barley than potatoes in Norfolk, *Jacob* 70.

Northamptonshire. The county-rate there is heavier in some parishes than in others, *Houghton* 818.

Northumberland. There is some very fine farming in Northumberland, *Oliphant* 11270——No reason why distress should exist in Northumberland; it is a well-farmed county, and keeps a great quantity of stock, *Bell* 11960–11962.

Notes. Proportion the circulation of one-pound notes bore to five-pound notes in 1814–1818, *Langhorn* 7637-7641.

See also *Bank of England Notes. Bank Notes, Country. Five-pound Notes. Joint Stock Banks. One-pound Notes. Paper Currency. Scotch One-pound Notes.*

Nottinghamshire. Districts in Nottinghamshire which but for the application of bone manure would have been nearly a barren waste, *Sanders* 6277.

O.

Oaten Bread. See *Bread.*

Oats. Price of, now, and 1832, *Babbs* 3412——Not quite so good as last year, *Bowyer* 3453——Price of, and whether the importations from Ireland have affected them, *Brickwell* 585–590——The price of, not affected by the same causes as that of barley, *Ellman* 4756–4758——Price of oats higher than it would have been in consequence of scarce seasons, *Rolfe* 1508–1513——Loss on the last two years, *Morton* 3729——They have borne a better price in proportion to wheat, but have been scarcely remunerative on clay lands, *Iles* 7331–7333——Proportion they should bear to wheat in price, *Morton* 3704——Are at a better price than wheat in proportion, *Sherborn* 4018——The price of good oats is satisfactory, *Tillyer* 4196——A little increase in the price

Oats—continued.

price of oats wished for, *Houghton* 1015——Twenty-one shillings not remunerating, *Sherborn* 4141–4142——Prices of oats for the last seven years have not been more than remunerating from deficient crops during part of the time, *Howard* 5605–5611——Price that would be remunerating, *Neave* 9352–9356——Twenty shilling would be a remunerating price for oats, *Hope* 9712——Twenty shillings to twenty-two shillings is reckoned a remunerating price, *Walker* 10661——Crop of, good, in Bucks, *Morton* 3653——In Huntingdonshire, *Bowyer* 3453——In Ayrshire, *Brown* 12349–12351——In East Lothian, *Howden* 10085——Crop of oats has not been good for the last four years, *Spooner* 15808——Sown on land in Bucks that is not suitable for barley, *Brickwell* 534——Are considered a destructive crop by the farmers of Somersetshire, *Stares* 11511——Are more commonly sown after fallow and turnips in Aberdeen, *Walker* 10555——Produce of oats per acre on heavy clay soils before they are improved, *Brown* 12092–12097——Experiments upon the depth of ploughing for sowing oats, *Smith* 15066–15069.

See also *Agricultural Produce. Averages. Irish Oats. Price of Corn*, 4, 5, 11. *Seasons. Spring of the Year. Spring Crops.*

Oil Cake. There has been a less use of oil cake in Bedfordshire of late years than formerly' *Bennett* 8321–8323——Great reduction in the use of oil cake in Cambridgeshire, in consequence of farmers not being able to purchase it, *Thurnall* 2340.

Oliphant, Lawrence, M. P. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Member for Perth; occupying 800 Scotch acres his own property, 11084–11086——Increase of produce within the last sixteen or twenty years, 11088——Principal improvement has been furrow-draining and bone dust, 11089–11092——Improvements on the clay lands and increased produce, particularly from furrow-draining, 11093–11096——Advantages of corn-rents, 11097–11099——Irregularity in the mode of taking the fiars in Perthshire, 11101–11103——All outgoings in Scotland affecting land are paid by the landlord, 11107——Amount of poor-rates in one parish; they are not generally adopted in Scotland, 11109–11112——All public burthens in Scotland are paid by assessment, upon a valuation of the kingdom, made in the time of Charles II.; proportion the valued rent bears to the actual rent, 11113–11119.

Nature of the draining adopted by witness and expense per acre, 11120–11123, 11134–11136——Advantages of wire fencing used by witness for enclosing land and expense thereof, 11124–11127——Bone manure will cause turnips to be grown on the tops of mountains, 11128, 11129——Rotation of cropping, 11130, 11131, 11137, 11138, ——The large plough is better for stiff stony clay than Mr. Smith's plough, though that is useful for moor land, 11133——Statement of the expense of cultivating a farm in Linlithgow and amount of produce, showing the sum left for rent and profit, 11138–11152——Farmers have all being doing pretty well in Scotland, except those growing only wheat, 11154–11156——Inferior clay lands could not have been cultivated to any advantage but from furrow-draining, 11157–11169.

Increased supply of London with potatoes from Scotland, which has enabled tenants to pay their money-rents, 11170–11175——Increased price of wool and mutton arising from increased population, general prosperity and particularly that of the manufacturing interest, 11176–11188——Opinion that the rot in England did not affect the price of sheep in Scotland, 11189–11194——Opinion that there could not be that security in England for the issue of one-pound notes that there is in Scotland, 11195–11209——The issues of one-pound notes in England was a stimulant to the panic, though there might have been an over issue without them, 11210–11212——Advantage to the Scotch bankers and farmers of the issue of one-pound notes, 11213–11215——The standard of value was altered by Mr. Peel's Bill of 1819, but a greater evil would arise from interfering with it now, 11216–11221——There are many thousand acres of the best land in England yielding only a fourth part of the produce which a small amount of intelligence and industry applied to it would quadruple, 11222–11226——Whether the interest of money laid out in land in England twenty-five years has fallen, 11227–11231.

The greater quantity of science and capital which has been exercised in agriculture of late years, has brought into cultivation lands not formerly cultivated with wheat, and driven unimproved lands out of cultivation, 11232–11238——Great increase of population since the war, but inceased production by improved cultivation has far outstripped the consumption, 11239–11254——Low prices attributable to two or three good harvests and the increased cultivation by bone manure and furrow-draining, 11239, 11256, 11257——Assessment on the valued rent may in some cases be unequal, but is paid by the landlord and is not complained of, 11258.

Size of farms; power of cultivation tends to increase the size of farms; quantity and quality of corn on large farms superior to that grown on small ones, 11259–11262——Good condition of labourers; rate of wages and allowances, 11263–11265——Education of labourers is good, 11266——The duty on clover-seed amounts to half-a-crown an acre, direct tax, 11267–11269——Produce of the soil of England might with ease be doubled, 11270——Scotch farmers taking English farms not so well able to take advantage of improvements as a native would be, added to which, they are not used to the local taxation, 11272–11275——Less wheat sown this year from barley bearing a higher price, 11276–11278.

One-pound Notes. Increased circulation of one-pound notes would increase the prosperity of the farmer, *David* 4346——Withdrawal of one-pound notes has done harm to the agricultural interest; wish for their re-issue, *Umbers* 8588, 8589——Withdrawal of the one-pound notes virtually took effect before the Act abolishing them; manner in which that withdrawal affected the farmer more than any other class, Lord *Ashburton* 17601–17604——Advantage of an issue of one-pound notes by the bank of England, if done with circumspection, *Langhorn* 8913, 8945–8949——One-pound notes should be established, *Muntz* 16480.

If one-pound notes could be given in change, more of them could be issued, but witness has no wish to issue them, *Langhorn* 7674–7679——Country bankers averse to the issue of one-pound notes; there would be an advantage in their issue if based on a silver standard; security should be given, more particularly for the protection of the labouring classes, *Burgess* 16109–16125——The issue of one-pound notes would tend to displace the sovereigns from circulation, *Langhorn* 8957–8960——Small notes would not be safe even with a silver standard; up to 1798 the standard was gold and silver, Lord *Ashburton* 17618–17620——The issues of one-pound notes in England was a stimulant to the panic, though there might have been an over issue without them, *Oliphant* 11210–11212.

See also *Agricultural Distress*, 6. *Banks, Country*, 1, 2. *Cash Payments. Distress. Gold. Interest. Irish Banking System. Panic. Silver Standard.*

Over-production. See *Farmers*, 3.

P.

Page, Charles. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Description of land and amount of rent on two farms at Southminster and Foulness, Essex, 2627–2647——Statement of the receipt and expenses of the farm in Southminster and loss on the farm, 2648–2661——Loss occasioned by the low price of corn, 2662–2670——Reduction of wages within three years, 2671–2673——As much labour employed as ten years ago, 2674, 2675——Land better cultivated than four or five years ago, partly owing to fine seasons, 2676, 2677——Great part of the parish of Mayland in the hands of the landlords, three or four years ago; great reduction of the rent of such farms as have been since let, 2678–2682——Low prices the occasion of agricultural depression, 2683——Capital has diminished; difference between large and small farmer, 2683–2686——Farmers have as much corn in their hands as generally, 2689——Great crop of spring grain has caused more corn to be sent to market than usual, 2690, 2691—— Extent to which the abolition of the malt tax would be a benefit; how far it might increase the growth of barley, 2695–2708——Effect of good crops of 1834 and 1835 in reducing the price of wheat, 2713–2715.

Rates expected to be reduced from the operation of the Poor Law Bill, 2719–2722—— Reduction of wages has been greater than the reduction in the price of necessaries, 2723–2733——Loss in pasture land from dry seasons, 2734–2736——Cause of present high price of meat, 2737–2749——No diminution in the quantity of arable land, 2750, 2751 ——Growth of clover-seed; reduction of duty on foreign clover-seed would not be liked, 2752–2754, 2759–2766——Rate of tithe, comparison with rent, 2769–2771——Further evidence as to profit and loss on different articles of produce, 2772–2790——If wheat sold at 7*l.* a bushel, and other corn in proportion for the remainder of witness's lease, there would still be a necessity for a reduction of rent and tithe, 2799–2804——Condition of farmers has deteriorated, though cultivation has improved from good seasons since, 1833, 2805–2812——Farms being bought by men of capital, and farms taken possession of by landlords, have been attended with outlay of capital which has increased the productive power of the land, 2813–2822——For the last seven years the crops have been fair average crops for the district, 2824–2827——Low price of wheat and high rent are two causes of the distress, 2828–2832.

Palmer Worm. Failure of the turnip crop attributable to the presence of the palmer worm, *Hancock* 11289.

Panic. Cause and effect of the panic of 1825, and necessity for an extension of the standard, *David* 4475–4480——If silver had been the standard it would not have been in the power of the Bank of France to have deliberated upon assisting the Bank of England, as in 1825, *Haggard* 16324, 16325——Reducing the bank issues and exporting gold in 1825 caused the panic in 1826, *Calthrop* 8033——Panic in 1825 would not have taken place if only those banks had issued notes who showed a capital beyond the reach of insolvency, *Blacker* 15469–15470——Causes of the panic of 1825, *Burgess* 15999–16001 ——Crisis of 1825 was from the foreign demand for gold, and not any home panic; the home crisis was from the want of accommodation for small change, *Haggard* 16229–16235——The panic of 1825 caused by the issue of one-pound notes and the demand for gold, Earl [illegible] 16716.

Panic in 1825 was partly occasioned by over-speculation, aided by the previous re-issue of one-pound notes, Lord *Ashburton* 17544–17547——There is no reason why one-pound notes should produce a panic more than five-pound notes, *Muntz* 16481——There will be another panic unless some restraint placed on the joint stock banks, *Sanders* 6219–6225 ——The issues of one-pound notes by the Bank of England during the panic contributed very much to the safety of the kingdom, *Langhorn* 7775–7777——Ineffectual demands by

Panic—continued.

by country bankers for gold and notes during the panic, their landed securities being of no avail, *Haggard* 16240–16242——The people during the panic wanted gold from the demand for it, and its being at a profit, *Haggard* 16266–16269.

See also *Bank of England Notes. Bullion. Currency*, 1. *One-pound Notes. Silver Standard*, 1. *Speculations.*

Paper Currency. Caused high prices, *Houghton* 761–775, 1032–1037——Advantages of a return thereto, *Stares* 11569–11578, 11589–11628——Check on issues should be their convertibility into the precious metals, *Langhorn* 8943–8944——Evils of returning to a paper currency, *Houghton* 761–775; *Hodgson* 6511–6519, 6600, 6601, 6616–6656; *Oliphant* 11216–11221——The serious consequences that would follow an inconvertible paper currency are so well known that no minister of the present day would propose such a measure, *Sanders* 6307——Advantages that would arise from an inconvertible paper currency to the extent of the dividends, particularly in protecting the bank from a drain for gold, and the derangements of all monied obligations, *Spooner* 15674–15679——Detailed plan for inconvertible paper to the extent of the dividends; how far it would cause coin to be exported; not part of the plan to re-enact the law against exportation, *Spooner* 15725–15765.

Witness never advocated the continuance of the inconvertible paper system, *Muntz* 16501——A more extended circulation of paper than the operations of the country will absorb will tend to raise prices and drive the gold out the country, Earl *Radnor* 16717–16720——Issue of notes previously caused high prices, 1824–1826, *Houghton* 1032–1037; *David* 4338, 4339; *Howard* 5474–5476——Effect of Lord Castlereagh's issue of notes in 1822 on prices, *Sanders* 6134–6186; *Freeland* 14855–14877; *Spooner* 15599–15617——Effect of the declaration of 1822 in increasing the currency, which was followed by the bubble year of 1825, and the panic consequent upon it, *Sanders* 6303–6306——Why the prosperity occasioned by Lord Londonderry's measure of 1822 for extending the circulation was not permanent, *Burgess* 15996–15998.

Measures taken by Government to alleviate the distress by the issue of one-pound notes in 1833, and rise in prices in consequence followed by the panic of 1825, Earl *Radnor* 16712–16716——Issue of one-pound notes in 1824 and 1825 postponed the measure of 1819, and by that means affected contracts, Earl *Radnor* 16956–16963——Lord Londonderry's measure for the re-issue of one-pound notes in 1822 tended to relieve the landed interest, but was passed in ignorance and produced mischievous effects, Lord *Ashburton* 17530–17543——Keeping out the small notes in 1822 was a matter incompatible with the safety of the currency; it was a matter of convenience against safety, Lord *Ashburton* 17554–17556.

See also *Cash Payments. Circulating Medium. Clay Lands*, 2. *Currency*, 1. *Debt, National. Joint Stock Banks. One-pound Notes. Prices of Corn*, 1, 11. *Productive Classes. Silver Standard*, 1, 2. *Sweden. Taxation*, 2.

Parker, Christopher Comyns. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Farming 2000 acres at Woodham Mortimer, in Dengy Hundred, Essex, 12382–12384——Average acreable produce of wheat on heavy lands, 12389——Course of cropping heavy land on the four-course system of husbandry, 12390–12392——Course of cropping mixed land on the six-course system, 12394, 12395——Rent of marsh land, 12399——Advantage of having a portion of marsh land attached to a farm, 12400——Condition of farmers has been bad, but since rents have been lowered it has improved, 12401, 12402——Any change of tenantry has been among men without capital and with young men who have been imprudent, 12403, 12404.

Per centage reduction in rents, which need not have been to the extent it has had they been lowered in sufficient time, and which would have caused farmers to have been better off and farms in better condition, 12405–12409——Increasing permanent improvements within the last three years in draining, liming and chalking, 12410, 12411——Poor Law Bill has decreased rates, and made labourers more attentive and obliging to their masters, 12413–12416——Condition of labourers good; they are able to find employment at fair wages, 12417–12419——Rate of wages, 12420——Which are higher than justified by the price of corn, but occasioned by there not being more labourers than are wanted, 12421——There is a difficulty in finding tenants with capital for heavy lands but not for turnip land farms, 12422, 12423.

Increased produce from productive seasons 1832–1835 a cause of reduced prices, 12425, 12426——Not much alteration in the growth of wheat in Essex, 12428——Present corn laws a sufficient protection to the English grower, and should not be tampered with, 12434–12442——Opinion that if the corn laws are not altered the average of wheat may still be maintained at 56*s.* to 60*s.*, 12443–12448——Effect of supply and demand, war, and currency in rising or lowering prices since 1800, 12453–12475——Local taxation should be more equally divided, 12478–12480.

Effect of alteration with regard to the highway-rate, and whether more beneficial than the old system of statute duty, 12481–12500——Amount of county-rate per acre, 12501–12506——Scarcely any land would yield a rent with wheat at 40*s.*, 12510–12513——Farmers were better off in 1797 than at present; prices were higher and expenses lower, 12515–12519——Whether rents are higher in proportion now to what they were in 1797, taking into consideration the improvements on land, 12520–12527——It is unfair to take the expenses of cultivation upon any one crop, 12528–12535——Further advantage of marsh land, 12536–12539.

Parker, Christopher Comyns. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

The rise in the price of meat has been occasioned by the loss in the turnip crop, but which rise has not been profitable to the grazing land, from the cattle having been fed on artificial food, 12540–12543——High price of wool occasioned by the rot, the demand of the manufacturing interest and the loss of turnip crop, 12544–12560——Not much complaint among tradesmen in market towns, 12561, 12562——Farmers possessed more capital before the war than previously to the depression of prices; war prices and facility of accommodation caused persons without knowledge of farming to take farms, and who were ultimately unsuccessful, 12563–12573——County-rate in Essex is as low as possible; it is well managed; cottagers that cannot afford to pay are relieved; house property rated according to the property tax, 12574–12585.

It depends upon the description of war in which England is engaged whether it raises prices, 12586–12588——Average prices of corn 1806–1817, 12589–12591——Increased taxation and increased value of commercial, manufacturing and agricultural property, 1797–1815, ascribed partly to currency and to the peculiar manner in which produce was compelled to be purchased causing monopoly in contract, 12592–12594——If the present corn laws continue, the only mode of relieving the farmer is an adjustment with his landlord, 12595–12604——Description of taxes that it would be beneficial to the farmer to have remitted, 12602–12610——Abolition of the duty on clover-seed would cause a local injury without an adequate general benefit, 12611–12613——Advantage that would be derived from a total abolition or a partial reduction of the malt tax, 12607, 12609, 12610, 12615–12622——Preference to paying 20*s.* an acre rent with wheat at 7*s.* than have land rent-free with wheat at 5*s.*, 12624——Rate of composition paid for tithe; expense of collection, 12625–12628——The Tithe Bill requires alterations for particular districts, 12630——Opinion in favour of a voluntary commutation at first, and a compulsory act at the end of five or seven years, 12631–12637.

Parliamentary Interference. See *Agricultural Distress*, 6.

Parochial Taxes in Scotland are very low, *Menzies* 14077–14079.
See also *Mines.*

Pasture Land. One hundred acres of pasture land in witness's neighbourhood not worth 30*s.* an acre, *Kemp* 2200——Has been bad in Essex for the last two years; stock has produced nothing from the dryness of the season, *Kemp* 2253——Loss on pasture land from dry seasons, *Page* 2734–2736——Witness's land in Essex will not feed quite half a bullock an acre, *Page* 2798——Laid down by witness, in Essex, to avoid the expense of cultivation, but which is little better than a sheep-walk, *Babbs* 3314, 3315——There is in Connaught a great deal of pasture and mountain land, the pasture being generally good, *Clarke* 13885, 13886——Advantages of laying down land in permanent pasture; amount of money-rent paid for it when let as grass parks, *Menzies* 13956–13970.
See also *Grass Lands.*

Patents. There should be a system of patents for improvements in agriculture as well as manufactures adopted, *Hall* 5002.

Paupers. See *Farmers*, 2.

Paupers, Removal of. Return from the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales, showing the amount of money expended for the relief of the poor in suits of law, removal of paupers, &c., *App. III. p.* 616.

Pearson's Draining Plough. See *Draining.*

Peas are a very uncertain crop in Cambridgeshire; average produce per acre, *Thurnall* 2274, 2275——Are a very precarious crop, except on chalky soils, *Thurnall* 2467–2469——Proportion sown on lands in Essex, *Kemp* 2075——Are generally grown on the lightest part of farms in Essex, *Babbs* 3271, 3272——Peas are a very precarious crop in the Isle of Thanet, *Cramp* 9497.

Peat. But very little peat in the neighbourhood of Haddington, *Hope* 9942, 9943.

Peel, Sir *Robert, his Measure of* 1819. See *Cash Payments.*

Pensions, Offices and Personal Estates.—Reductions on pensions, offices and personal estates, and cause of reduction, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9053, 9054——Unless a special exemption in the grant of a pension was introduced, it has been liable to the 4*s.* in the pound under the Land Tax Act, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9124, 9125.

Personal Property. Personal estates have been relieved from the property tax from 1833, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9099——It is continually changing hands, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9126——Intention of the Act that personal property should be equally subject with land; conjecture that difficulties arose, and that the amount was levied on the land only, whether it did not also pay the default on personal property, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9112–9115——Opinion upon the construction of certain clauses of the Act 38 Geo. III. relative to personal property,

Personal Property—continued.

property, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9129, 9130——The working of the Act of 1797 depends on the local commissioners, who it is supposed did not choose to alter the assessments already made, which may account for personal property being so slightly charged, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9132——The 20*s.* refers to personal property, and the 4*s.* to real estates, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9134, 9135.

Personal Security. See *Banks, Country.*

Petitions to Parliament. They do harm in inducing farmers to look to the legislature for that assistance that their own industry and frugality ought to supply, *Crowther* 12953–12956——Many of the farmers in Worcestershire and Gloucestershire who have signed petitions keep two or three hunters and live luxuriously, *Crowther* 13316.

Piece Work. A great proportion of our manufacturers are paid piece work, *Muntz* 16633.

Piercing Draining. See *Draining.*

Pigs. See *Potatoes.*

Pitt, Mr. See *Exchequer Bills.*

Ploughing. Description of ploughs used; mode of ploughing and number of horses necessary on different descriptions of land: in Buckinghamshire, *Brickwell* 397–400——In Gloucestershire, *Crowther* 12787——In Huntingdonshire, *Bowyer* 3639——In Kent, *Neave* 9464–9468——[In Scotland] In Haddington, Hope 9666–9672——In East Lothian, *Howden* 10052–10055, 10216–10218——In Aberdeen, *Walker* 10607–10615——Expense per acre of ploughing clover land for wheat, *Cooper* 5650——Value of ploughing per acre in Haddington, *Hope* 9666–9672—— Quantity of land that can be ploughed in a day in East Lothian, *Howden* 10052–10055——The large plough is better for stiff stony clay than Mr. Smith's plough, though that is useful for moor land, *Oliphant* 11133——Disadvantage of the system pursued in England of deep-ploughing lands without previously draining, *Smith* 15170——Evidence upon different and improved modes of ploughing, the number of horses to be used and the different modes of yoking them, *Smith* 15183–15210.

See also *Steam Plough. Sub-soil Plough.*

Plymouth. Petition of the merchants and others interested in the grain trade at the port of Plymouth, on the subject of bonded corn, *II.* pp. 103–104.

See also *Bounded Corn*, 1, 6.

Poaching. The crime has increased in Surrey, *Smallpiece* 3091–3392.

Poaching Land. Bad effects of horses poaching turnip lands, *Howden* 13079.

Poland. The quantity of wheat which comes down the Vistula from Poland is not above half the former quantity, *Jacob* 203.

See also *Irish Corn*, 1.

Police. Returns from the sub-inspectors of police in the several counties of the provinces of Munster, Leinster, Ulster and Connaught, *App. III. p.* 503.

Political Unions. Labouring classes joined the political unions from their deteriorated circumstances, in some instances having suffered 75 per cent. reduction in wages, *Muntz* 16615–16620.

See also *Birmingham Political Union.*

Pomerania. See *Irish Corn*, 1.

Ponsonby, Lord. Rent paid to Lord Ponsonby and state of his tenants in King's County, *Shawe* 14307–14309——Allowance by Lord Ponsonby for slated farm buildings, *Shawe* 14317–14319.

Pooley, George. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Corn-inspector at Ipswich, 9242——Averages struck under Act of 1828, 9243——Buyers only give in returns, 9244——No fictitious sales since the last Act, 9245, 9246—Returns are very well made in Ipswich market, though it is impossible to collect every sale, 9248, 9249——Difficulty that would take place in collecting returns if sellers had to return as well as buyers, 9250, 9251——Mode of obtaining returns, and ascertaining their correctness; if private individuals known to make a purchase they would be compelled to make a return, 9253–9263——Difficulty of ascertaining whether corn sold two or three times over or not; there has not been an attempt at a fraud of that description of late years, 9264–9267.

There is a corn exchange, but there is no prohibition against selling elsewhere; a great deal sold in merchants' counting-houses before and after market, 9268–9270——Number of quarters of corn specified in the return for 1824 is correct, 9272——Quality and prices of the different descriptions of corn sold in the Ipswich market, 9273–9296——Further evidence as to witness's means of ascertaining the correctness

Pooley, George. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*
of the returns and plan that would be adopted in case of fraud being suspected, 9297–9315 —— Whether penalties would be more effective if they were exigible on the information of common informers, 9316–9327 —— A return might be obtained from growers, though it would be considered troublesome, 9329–9333.

Poor. Farmers being allowed the unrestricted use of barley would better the condition of the poor, *Brickwell* 341——State of, better now than formerly in Huntingdonshire, *Bowyer* 3601——Labourers in Sussex applying for relief are employed digging flints, &c. for roads, *Ellman* 4525, 4526——The poor of Fanton Barnes are maintained by voluntary subscription, *Hope* 9673——Assessment for the poor in East Lothian, *Howden* 9990–9992.

Poor Landlords. See *Clay Lands*, 2.

Poor Lands. With wheat at 56*s.*, poor lands in Bucks would be cultivated, or at all events turned to some account, *Brickwell* 628.
See also *Agricultural Distress*, 4.

Poor Laws. See *Agricultural Labourers*, 1. *Ireland.*

Poor Law Amendment Act.
1. *Advantages of.*
2. *Evils of.*

1. *Advantages of.*
Poor Law Bill has worked well with the idle and profligate, *Cox* 14220–14225——It works well at present, *Spooner* 15714——It has worked well in Buckinghamshire, *Cortis* 1916——In the East Riding of York, *Howard* 5538——Poor Law Bill is becoming a favourite measure, where sufficient sympathy shown by the guardians, particularly as regards the aged and infirm, *Cox* 14236–14251——Has reduced poor-rates in Bedfordshire, *Bennett* 8185–8193——In Bucks, *Brickwell* 332–352, 354, 450–465; *Houghton* 814, 815; *Rolfe* 1448–1450; *Cortis* 1916; *Morton* 3752–3754, 3795–3799, 3888–3892—— In Essex, *Kemp* 1990–1992; *Page* 2719–2722; *Parker* 12413–12416——In Hampshire, *Stares* 11514–11518——In Kent, *Neave* 9357–9360——In Lancashire, *Sanders* 6800——In Norfolk, *Fison* 12654–12656——In the Isle of Thanet, *Cramp* 9511–9515—— In Suffolk, *Cooper* 5639–5645——In Surrey, *Smallpiece* 3101–3104——In Sussex, *Smallpiece* 2939–2957; *Ellman* 4508; *Goodman* 11011–11013; *Boniface* 13130–13132.
Has caused greater attention on the part of labourers, *Brickwell* 352–354; *Bennett* 8200, 8201; *Parker* 12413–12416—— Has caused improvement in the moral habits of labourers, *Ellman* 4528, 4529, 4763, 4764; *Cooper* 5639–5645; *Fison* 12657, 12658; *Boniface* 13133 —— Keeps labourers employed, *Morton* 3795–3799; *Bennett* 8367–8371; *Cramp* 9589–9591; *Boniface* 13259–13262; Earl of *Radnor* 16846, 16847, 16976–16980, 16983–16986 —— Has caused migration of labourers, *Brickwell* 459–465 —— Has benefited the condition of the poor, *Houghton* 814, 815, 8367–8371—— Has diminished the charges of the farmers, *Sanders* 6285, 6286——Poor Law Bill will at first reduce wages, but by causing emigration will eventually raise them, *Freeland* 14904–14909.

2. *Evils of.*
Antipathy of agricultural labourers in Cambridgeshire, to the Poor Law Bill, causes very demoralizing effects, *Thurnall* 2354–2371 —— Any influential farmer in the district of Duxford, Cambridgeshire, could instantly put the labourers into a state of revolution, occasioned by want of employment and the Poor Law Bill, *Thurnall* 2367–2369—— The Poor Law Bill is unjustifiable in principle, and nothing will reconcile the labourer to it, *Thurnall* 2382–2384——Poor-rates are increased from the Poor Law Bill, if the money paid in advance taken into consideration, *Thurnall* 2476–2478 —— Labourers unable to get employment are dissatisfied with it, *Cooper* 5766–5769.
But little benefit will accrue from its introduction into witness's neighbourhood, *Bickerton* 8821——It has thrown labourers upon their own resources, and there is not sufficient employment to give them remunerating prices, *Stares* 11642——Instance, showing why the Poor Law Bill will throw a man with a large family out of the labour market, *Boniface* 13133, 13159–13161——Stopping relief to out-parishioners will throw men with large families out of the labour market, *Boniface* 13265, 13292, 13293——Effect of, on out-residents; in some cases bad, *Morton* 3840–3843——Poor Law Bill could not have been carried into effect but for public works, the low price of provisions and manufacturing prosperity, *Fison* 12743–12745; *Cox* 14229, 14230; *Spooner* 15714.
See also *Birmingham Union. Farms*, 3. *Fixed Duty*, 7. *Machinery. Manufacturing Districts. Shopkeepers. Wages*, 1. *Workhouses.*

Poor Rate:

1. *Rate of, and whether increase or decrease therein.*
2. *Inequality of assessment, and different modes of payment suggested.*
3. *In Scotland.*

1. *Rate of, and whether any increase or decrease therein.*

Rate and amount thereof in Bucks, *Morton* 3751——In Huntingdonshire, *Bowyer* 3447——In Leicestershire, *Ellis* 10834–10836——In the Isle of Thanet, *Cramp* 9522——In Suffolk, *Cooper* 5677–5688——In Sussex, *Boniface* 13128, 13129——In the East Riding of York, *Howard* 5366–5368——High rate of, in Sussex, *Boniface* 13156–13158——Low rate of, in Lincoln, *Atkinson* 5874–5879——In Northumberland, *Langhorn* 7558——In Shropshire, *Bickerton* 8729–8732——In Warwick, *Crowther* 12794–12798——Increase therein in Suffolk, *Cooper* 5677–5688——In Sussex, *Boniface* 13177–13179, 13243–13248——Reduction therein in Bucks, *Rolfe* 1538–1540; *Tillyer* 4213; *Morton* 3888–3892——In Essex, *Babbs* 3347–3349——In Gloucester, *Hall* 4991, 4992——In Leicester, *Ellis* 10981, 10982——In Lincolnshire, *Atkinson* 5874–5879——In Middlesex, *Sherborn* 4050——In Suffolk, *Cooper* 5635, 5772——In Surrey, *Smallpiece* 2859, 2860, 3142–3147——In Sussex, *Goodman* 11007–11010——In the East Riding of York, *Howard* 5485–5493.

2. *Inequality of assessment, and different modes of payment suggested.*

If the amount now spent in poor-rates could be laid out in additional labour it would be an advantage, *Brickwell* 596——Land bears by far the greater proportion of the poor-rate, *Smallpiece* 3067, 3068——Comparative amount of, paid by manufacturers and agriculturists, showing excess paid by the latter, *David* 4322–4327——Mode of assessment to, very unequal, *Hall* 4994——Poor-rates, and all sums included in them, should be borne by the property of the kingdom at large, *Cooper* 5676——Those under 4*l.* to 6*l.* should be paid by landowners, *Hancock* 11323——Poor-rate generally taken at about two-thirds of the actual rent, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9066——Low prices caused want of employment, which, with the misconduct of the men themselves, increased the poor-rates, *Boniface* 13243–13248——Injurious effect in Sussex of paying part of the labour out of poor-rates, *Boniface* 13263, 13264——Return from the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales, showing the amount of money expended for the relief of the poor in suits of law, removal of paupers, &c., *App. III. p.* 616.

3. *In Scotland.*

Amount of poor-rates in one parish; they are not generally adopted in Scotland, *Oliphant* 11109–11112——There is no poor-rate in Ayrshire with the exception of the towns of Ayr and Kilmarnock, *Brown* 12253——Amount of poor-rates assessed on an ancient rate made in 1760, in Dumfries, *Stevenson* 13091–13097——Amount of poor-rates in Dumfries, and by whom paid, *Church* 13589——They continue much the same in Haddington now as they were about eleven years ago, *Brodie* 10372–10374——Are paid by landlord and tenant, *Bell* 11836, 11837; *Brodie* 10295–10298; *Oliphant* 11108.

See also *Constables' Rate. Currency*, 2. *Irish Corn*, 3. *Local Taxation. Poor Law Amendment Act. Population. Price of Corn*, 7. *Rent*, 6. *Roundsmen.*

Population. Population of the north of Europe is increasing as fast or rather faster than ours, *Jacob* 205——It is in the densely-populated parts of the kingdom that potatoes have taken the place of wheat, *Jacob* 83——Increased population since the war, *Oliphant* 11240——The population of Ireland much denser than that of England in 1831, *Sturge* 7196, 7197——How far increased since 1821, to be set against fall in price, from increased consumption, *Jacob* 138–143——Manner of accounting for increased population, 1811–1831, with extensive emigration; reduced poor-rates and deteriorated cultivation of land, *Howard* 5494–5508, 5513–5518——Increased population has taken up increased growth in England, *Thurnall* 2599——Increased growth of wheat has not kept pace with increased population, *David* 4306; *Scott* 5190–5192——There is an increase of produce to meet addition of population, *Sanders* 7004–7006——Great increase of population since the war, but increased production by improved cultivation has far outstripped consumption, *Oliphant* 11239–11254——Prosperity of the agricultural interest to be attributed to the great increase of population, *Burgess* 15966.

See also *Consumption of Wheat. Currency*, 1. *Demand and Supply. Potatoes*, 1. *Produce of Corn. Wool*, 2.

Pork. An immense quantity of pig meat raised from the growth of potatoes, *Smallpiece* 3057——Has not made the same advance in price that wool and beef have done, *Church* 13569.

Potato Land. Farmers at Beaconsfield allow labourers to plant potatoes, *Rolfe* 1471——A small piece of land allowed labourers for the growth of potatoes, *Church* 13585–13588.

Potatoes:

1. *Increase in the growth of, and manner it affects the price of Wheat.*
2. *Growth of, in Scotland.*

1. *Increase in the growth of, and manner it affects the price of Wheat.*

Extent of increase in the consumption of, also increased production of corn from better husbandry, *Jacob* 51–57——Increased consumption of has been gradual for twenty or twenty-five years; the increase since 1833 not sufficient to affect prices between that and the present time, *Jacob* 65–67——Increased consumption of, is one cause of the low price of wheat, *Jacob* 94; *Smallpiece* 3057–3060, 3095-3098; *Morton* 3792——Labourers now use more potatoes and less bread, *Bowyer* 3440; *Morton* 3792——More potatoes eaten now, to the diminution of other vegetables, *Sanders* 6296——Increased use of potatoes has not been greater than increased population, *Ellis* 10727–10729.

The consumption of has not affected the price of wheat, for that being so low has caused it to be substituted for other things, *Houghton* 823, 895, 896; *Iles* 7353——Their consumption among the labouring classes in Bucks has not increased to the prejudice of the use of wheat, though it may have occurred in some parts of England, *Rolfe* 1472——Are as much used as an article of food now as formerly in Essex, *Kemp* 2076——A larger quantity of potatoes can be purchased for money than wheat, *Jacob* 118——Proportion of the population of the northern counties living on potatoes, *Jacob* 136, 137——Field potatoes very much used as common food, *Jacob* 151–153——They cannot be kept more than one year, *Jacob* 187——Are a very healthy diet; price per bushel; they can be kept a year and a half, *Smallpiece* 3076–3079.

Increased use of, arises from increased demand by the labouring classes; variations in seasons have caused a rise in price, *Jacob* 144–146——The cultivation of, enables labourers to keep pigs, *Smallpiece* 3073——Labourers in Surrey generally have their 20*l.* worth of potatoes and pigs by them, *Smallpiece* 3075——Produce of a potato crop depends entirely on the seasons, *Ellis* 10896——Present high price of potatoes and effect on consumption, *Sturge* 7292——Impossible to cultivate them without a great outlay of manure, *Jacob* 185——Greater quantity of potatoes grown now than formerly, *Smallpiece*, 3057; *Bowyer* 3439; *Ellis* 10727, 10743——Increased cultivation of potatoes has been more by farmers than by labourers in the allotment system, *Jacob* 206–212.

2. *Growth of, in Scotland.*

Increased supply of London with potatoes from Scotland, which has enabled tenants to pay their money-rents, *Oliphant* 11170–11175——When land is drained, they are as near as possible a certain crop, *Church* 13427——More potatoes grown in Dumfries now than formerly, *Church* 13437–13440——Increased quantity of potatoes grown in Kincardineshire, Forfar and Aberdeenshires, *Robertson* 13604——The potato husbandry might be introduced after draining, with advantage, *Robertson* 13817——Produce per acre of potatoes on drained clay land, *Robertson* 13824——Comparative qualities of potatoes as compared with turnips for fattening cattle, *Robertson* 13826.

See also *Allotment System. Cattle*, 4. *Clay Lands*, 5. *Consumption of Wheat. Ireland. Limestone Land. Population. Price of Corn*, 1, 6. *Scotch Husbandry. Spirits. Wages*, 2.

Poundage. Poundage to commissioners' clerks is continued to redeemed portion of land tax, because their labour is not diminished by the redemption, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9058.

Precious Metals. Upon changing the currency in 1819, the rise in the price of precious metals was not sufficiently taken into account, *Sanders* 7103——The British demand for precious metals had the effect of increasing their value, *Sanders* 7132, 7133——Form in which the precious metals come into this country, which is generally for profit or to pay for goods we have over traded in, *Haggard* 16298, 16299.

See also *Paper Currency.*

Premiums. Premiums of societies should be applied in giving farmers an opportunity of visiting different agricultural districts for improvement, *Smith* 15234–15236.

Prices, generally. See *Agricultural Labourers*, 3, 4. *Agricultural Produce. Agricultural and Manufacturing Interests. Bank of England Notes. Bank Restriction Act. Banks, Country*, 1. *Birmingham Manufactures. Cash Payments. Cattle*, 2. *Commercial and Manufacturing Interests. Commission Merchant. Currency. Export Trade. Fixed Engagements. Joint Stock Banks. Luxuries. Mutton. Necessaries of Life. Paper Currency. Raw Materials. Reform Bill. Rot*, 2. *Scotch One-pound Notes. Sheep. Silver Standard. Steam Navigation. Wages. War.*

Price of Corn.

1. *Price of Corn in former years.*
2. *Price of Corn at present.*
3. *Price that is or is not remunerating.*
4. *Price that may be maintained under the present Corn Laws, and prices of Foreign Corn.*
5. *Comparative price of Wheat and other Corn.*
6. *Causes of low prices.*
7. *Bad effect of the present low prices on the condition of Farmers.*
8. *Late rise in the price, and causes.*
9. *Effect of a rise on the condition of Farmer and the public generally.*
10. *Effect of demand and supply on price.*
11. *Effect of alterations in the currency on price.*
12. *Papers laid before the Committee.*

1. *Price of Corn in former years.*

Comparative prices previous to 1833 and at present, and effect of stocks on hand, foreign importation, consumption of potatoes and abundant harvests, on price, *Jacob* 44–50, 104–135——Causes of high prices in the three preceding harvests to 1816, and depression of prices during the present three preceding harvests may be different, *Jacob* 220–224——Knowledge of the fact that there never was a greater range of price for any period of years previous to 1797, will have a great effect on the value of land, *Calthrop* 8176–8179—— How far the fact of there never having been an average price of wheat beyond 46*s.* or 47*s.* a quarter upon a fair average of years prior to the Bank Restriction Act of 1797 is against any opinion that wheat cannot be now grown at 5*s.* 6*d.* a bushel, *Houghton* 1273–1275——Taking wheat as the standard, the average price for the number of years under the present standard would not be 5*s.* a bushel, shown by the averages of one hundred years before 1797, *Spooner* 15619–15622.

Price of corn for a century or two previous to 1792 pretty steady at 40*s.*; variations in the price from 1797 to the end of the war, Earl *Radnor* 16691–16698——Prices of wheat pretty steady at 50*s.* some years antecedent to the Bank Restriction Act, Lord *Ashburton* 17006–17008——Good wheat was dear in 1816, *Houghton* 865–871——Prices were higher from 1801 to 1804 than from 1808 to 1814, *Muntz* 16364–16369——Price of wheat 1829–1831, *Jacob* 105; 1813–1819, *Bowyer* 3628–3632; 1806–1817, *Parker* 12589–12591——Comparative low and high prices of wheat in former years, *Bickerton* 8873–8880——High prices of wheat in 1824 caused by speculation, aided by paper currency, *Houghton* 1032–1037——Price of produce nearly the same in England as Scotland, although the circulating medium is different, *Robertson* 13774–13776.

2. *Price of Corn at present.*

Price of wheat at present, which will not be lower, *Fison* 12733–12735——Average price of wheat at the weight of 62 lbs. to the bushel, *Cooper* 5671–5675——Price of wheat began to rise the latter part of January, *Calthrop* 7978——Average prices of wheat for the last five weeks at Liverpool, *Scott* 5307–5315——In Uxbridge market are higher than the average of the kingdom, *Morton* 3958——Price per strike of 75 lbs. at Christmas and since, *Bickerton* 8671, 8672——In Canterbury market, *Cramp* 9490–9493——In Chelmsford market, rise of from 8*s.* to 10*s.* a quarter, *Kemp* 2184–2187——In Guildford market, rise, *Smallpiece* 2848–2851——In Uxbridge market 1822–1835, *Tillyer* 4229–4239——High and low price, *Morton* 3665–3667, 3947; *Sherborn* 4019, 4070, 4071, 4085–4087——In Huntingdonshire, rise of 8*s.* a quarter, *Bowyer* 3559, 3560——In Haddington market, *Hope* 9713–9715; *Brodie* 10342–10344.

Reduction in the price of wheat in Bucks from 7*s.* to 4*s.* 6*d.* a bushel since 1833, *Brickwell* 312, 313, 325——At Bucks market, in February 1836, oats, 21*s.*; barley, 29*s.*; wheat, 40*s.*, *Brickwell* 324; wheat, 39*s.* 7*d.*; barley, 29*s.*; oats, 19*s.* 8*d.*; rye, 27*s.* 6*d.*; beans, 34*s.* 7*d.*, *Brickwell* 585——In Bucks has been rather better the last few markets, but is now ruinously low, *Houghton* 695——Statement of the average prices of English and Irish wheats in the Bristol market, for 1833–1835, and average prices of the actual sales of all British wheat in the same market, *Hall* 5045; *Rep. II. p.* 33——Prices of wheat and bread for two years, *Hall* 5045; *Rep. II. p.* 33.

3. *Price that is or is not remunerating.*

Of wheat, that would be remunerating, *Brickwell* 568–571; *Smallpiece* 2879–2882; *Atkinson* 5960; *Hodgson* 6554–6557; *Iles* 7399; *Calthrop* 7880–7883; *Bell* 11999–12001; *Brassington* 14611; *Freeland* 14929–14930; *Spooner* 15820, 15821; per quarter, 40*s.*, *Hope* 9793–9798; *Brodie* 10420–10433; *Fison* 12687–12690; 45*s.* to 48*s.*, *Blacker* 15406; 50*s.*, *Sanders* 6197–6203; *Hope* 9712; 55*s.*, *Calthrop* 8144; 55*s.* or 56*s.*, *Calthrop* 8176–8179; 55*s.* to 65*s.*, *Byron* 8396, 8397; 56*s.*, *Brickwell* 627; *Hall* 5012, 5013, 5023; *Calthrop* 8109–8114; *Howden* 10171–10173; 60*s.*, *Kemp* 2066; *Sherborn* 4041; *Howard* 5454, 5455; *Goodman* 11066–11068; *Freeland* 14816; 60*s.* or 63*s.*, *Tillyer* 4195; *Neave* 9448; 60*s.* to 64*s.*, *Stares* 11566; *Menzies* 14073, 14074; 64*s.*, *Cramp* 9494; *Hancock* 11372–11378–11383; *Church* 13572–13574; per bushel 5*s.* or 6*s.*, *Bennett* 8221–8227; 6*s.*, *Brodie* 10384–10390; 6*s.* or 7*s.*, *Bickerton* 8850; 6*s.* 6*d.* or 7*s.* *M'Dougal* 14552; 8*s.*, *Umbers* 8470–8472; *Bickerton* 8697, 8698.

PRICE OF CORN:—3. *Price that is or is not remunerating*—continued.

Scale of prices for different descriptions of produce that would be remunerative on an average of seven years, *Thurnall* 2546–2564, 2571–2573——Prices that are not remunerative or at which wheat cannot be grown to pay rent and other outgoings, per quarter 32*s.* to 36*s.*, *Boniface* 13235–13237; 33*s.* to 36*s.*, *Shawe* 14367, 14368; 36*s.* to 40*s.*, *Freeland* 14919–14922; 40*s.*, *Atkinson* 5976; *Brown* 12340–12343; *Crowther* 12820–12822; 45*s.*, *Ellis* 10960, 10961; 50*s.*, *Ellis* 10825, 10826; per bushel 5*s.*, *Babbs* 3423, 3424; *Howard* 5470–5472; *Byron* 8440; *Cox* 14212; 5*s.* 6*d.*, *Howard* 5465, 5466; 5*s.* 9*d.*, *Morton* 3819–3822; 8*s.*, *Umbers* 8545——Whether price of corn 1822–1835 remunerating, *Kemp* 2019–2023——There has not been one remunerating year since 1827, *Tillyer* 4260——There is no such thing as a remunerating price applicable to a whole country varying in soil, *Hodgson* 6592, 6593.

Price at which wheat can be grown must depend on local situation and many other considerations, *Sanders* 6948——If present prices of wool and mutton were to continue, which cannot be expected, wheat could be grown at less than 64*s.*, *Umbers* 8554——Prices being remunerative depends upon the rotation of the different crops, and not upon wheat alone, *Robertson* 13703–13710——Present prices cannot continue as wheat cannot be produced at those prices, reduction will go on in the cost of production, *Sanders* 6238–6242——If the prices of other grain were upon a par with wheat, at present no land could be cultivated with a chance of remuneration, *Sherborn* 4139——If the price of wheat does not range beyond 50*s.* it will only be grown on the finest soils; on the others it will be superseded by barley, *Menzies* 14103–14105——Wheat cannot be kept up at 8*s.* a bushel, unless it be a nominal price, *Muntz* 16533–16538.

Present fiar prices are lower than the farmer can comfortably exist upon, *Howden* 10103, 10104——Improvements in agriculture have lessened the cost of production, and reduced the price at which farmers immediately after the war thought they must have to grow corn profitably, *Caithrop* 8088–8091——Agriculturists since 1814 have always declared they could not grow wheat for less than from 15*s.* to 20*s.* a quarter higher than it proved they could grow it for; in a little time it may be grown under 50*s.*, and more grown than ever, *Sanders* 6125——Preference to having 7*s.* a bushel for wheat with rent 20*s.* an acre and other charges in proportion, than having wheat 5*s.* a bushel and land rent free, *Houghton* 792; *Umbers* 8518; *Parker* 12624——Preference in favour of paying no rent and receiving 5*s.* a bushel for wheat and other grain in proportion, than in 24*s.* a acre rent, and receiving 7*s.* a bushel for wheat, *Iles* 7482–7485, 7545–7549.

4. *Price that may be maintained under the present Corn Laws, and prices of Foreign Corn.*

Fluctuation in price under the present corn law, *Fison* 12717–12720——Seven shillings a bushel may be maintained for wheat under the present corn laws, *Bell* 12075–12079——Opinion that if the corn laws are not altered the average of wheat may still be maintained at 56*s.* to 60*s.*, *Parker* 12443–12448——Price that may be calculated upon for wheat, barley and oats under the present corn law, *Fison* 12714–12716——Price of corn in the continental export countries has not fluctuated so much as here; our abundant harvests have reduced their prices, *Jacob* 38–43——Less fluctuation in those countries removed furthest from water carriage, *Jacob* 43——Comparative prices of foreign wheat and flour in London and New York, *Frean* 15298–15300.

5. *Comparison between the price of Wheat and that of other Corn.*

In a tract of time the price of wheat generally governs that of other corn, *Bowyer* 3555; *Morton* 3702; *Sherborn* 4134–4138; *Howard* 3456–3460; *Church* 13575–13577——Price of wheat upon a tract of years does not govern the price of other corn, *Kemp* 2025–2032; *Babbs* 3361, 3362——Circumstances have arisen which have altered the proportions in price between other agricultural produce and wheat, but they will eventually return to be regulated by the price of wheat, *Boniface* 13194–13196——Wheat cannot be taken as the standard to regulate prices by, *Robertson* 13707——Proportion the price of other grain bears to that of wheat, *Houghton* 784–788——Comparative price of corn and other grain in 1815 and 1832, *Houghton* 1331–1333.

Reducing the quantity of wheat and increasing that of soft corn will increase the price of the former and reduce that of the latter, *Thurnall* 2439–2441——Prices of all other corn satisfactory except wheat, *Morton* 3802——Prices of other crops have not fallen in proportion to wheat, but the crops themselves have been bad, *Freeland* 14809——If price of other grain adapted to present price of wheat, the four-course system of husbandry would not pay, *Jacob* 182–184——Price of oats in some slight degree affects the price of wheat, *Jacob* 279——Prices of barley and oats higher than wheat from there being less fluctuation, *Jacob* 33——In the course of time the prices of wheat and barley must always rule one another, *Houghton* 972——Prices of wheat rising higher than that of barley and oats will cause increased growth of wheat, *Howard* 5479——Comparative prices of wheat and barley, and prices of each that would be remunerating on those lands, *Bennett* 8340–8350.

6. *Causes of low prices.*

There has been a gradually descending scale for wheat for the last twenty years, with an occasional re-action, *Stares* 11524–11532——Circumstances that caused the fall in prices after 1815 other than the cessation of the war, *Muntz* 16372–16374——Extent of the fall in the price of wheat between 1833 and 1836, *Jacob* 100——The low price of wheat

Price of Corn:—6. *Causes of low prices*—continued.

wheat attributed to a succession of good harvests, *Jacob* 4–7, 73–75, 94, 99–103; *Rolfe* 1406; *Kemp* 2130–2143, 2201–2207; *Tillyer* 4194; *Hall* 4998–5000; *Sanders* 6029, 6106–6112; *Hodgson* 6409–6412; *Langhorn* 7584–7588; *Byron* 8400–8404; *Arnall* 9605–9607; *Hope* 9739–9742, 9841–9845; *Howden* 10010; *Brodie* 10336–10338; *Oliphant* 11239, 11256, 11257; *Parker* 12425, 12426, 12600; *Fison* 12646, 12647——Increased growth and consumption of potatoes, *Jacob* 34–37; *Brickwell* 416; *Hancock* 11339–11345——Surplus growth and deficient consumption, *Brickwell* 416; *Kemp* 1958–1960; *Babbs* 3289, 3306; *Bowyer* 3437; *Ellman* 4509–4514, 4583–4597; *Scott* 5064; *Sanders* 6271, 6272; *Hodgson* 6336–6338, 6413–6415; *Sturge* 7258; *Iles* 7351; *Calthrop* 8006, 8007; *Bickerton* 8706; *Arnall* 9605–9607; *Brodie* 10441–10453; *Ellis* 10713, 10714; *Brassington* 14591; *Smith* 15147–15151; Earl *Radnor* 16789, 16834–16837; *Ruding* 17087–17089; Lord *Ashburton* 17599, 17600——Needy farmers throw corn on market shortly after harvest, *Kemp* 2208–2213——Increased weight of wheat and consequent increase of flour, *Sherborn* 4072–4077; *Ellman* 4509–4514, 4583–4597; *Howden* 10010——Improved cultivation, *Jacob* 94–97; *Byron* 8400–8404; Earl *Radnor* 16789——By the use of bone manure and furrow-draining, *Oliphant* 11239, 11256, 11257——Breaking up grass land, *Byron* 8400–8404——Transition from war to peace, *Hodgson* 6595–6597; *Crowther* 12943, 12952——Good seasons, *Hope* 9841–9845, 9847, 9848; Earl of *Radnor* 16698, 16699——Foreign importation, *Houghton* 1179; *Rolfe* 1406, 1550–1569; *Cortis* 1850–1859; *Thurnall* 2381; *Bickerton* 3532, 3533, 8706–8708; *Hope* 9841–9845——Large stocks in the hands of corn dealers, *Rolfe* 1550–1569——Want of speculation, *Rolfe* 1550–1569; *Scott* 5064; *Calthrop* 7928——Scarcity of money among farmers, *Scott* 5064, 5128 *Parker* 12600——Importation from Ireland, *Morton* 3756–3758; *Hall* 4998–5000; *Bickerton* 8706–8708; Earl *Radnor* 16789, 16834–16837——Allotment of land to labourers, *Hall* 4998–5000——Alteration or contraction in the currency on resumption of cash payments, *Houghton* 1179–1191; *Thurnall* 2381; *David* 4340, 4341; *Ellman* 4749–4755; *Hodgson* 6595–6597; *Crowther* 12943–12952; *Muntz* 16411–16414; Lord *Ashburton* 17599, 17600.

Low prices in 1822 occasioned by general depression throughout the country, *Byron* 8427–8430——Fall in the price of wheat not to be attributed to the increased quantity sown, *Howard* 5407——The low prices in Ireland attributed to the miserable condition of the Irish labourer preventing his purchasing the produce of his own land, *Thurnall* 2603, 2604——Irish grain is 5*s.* to 6*s.* under the English averages, and 8*s.* to 10*s.* under prime samples, *Blacker* 15406——Improved cultivation in Ireland and in England will bring the price of corn nearer 40*s.* than 50*s.*, but in the meantime prices will rise, *Sanders* 7018–7021——Prices of wheat must rise; the first effect of a fall is to cause more wheat to be sown, but after that course has been pursued a year or two, the extreme is fallen into, *Sanders* 6033, 6034.

7. *Bad effect of the present low prices on the condition of Farmers.*

Farmers complain of the present low price of wheat, *Sanders* 6924——The low price of wheat causes the farmer to suffer most; the price of other produce not so much to be complained of, *Houghton* 1012–1017——Farms rent-free could not be cultivated at present prices, *Thurnall* 2308–2314——Land ceased to pay a profit about four years ago; corn bore a better price previous to that, *Thurnall* 2276–2281——Loss occasioned by the low price of corn, *Page* 2662–2670——Increase in produce has in some measure made up for low price of wheat, *Crowther* 12815——Loss on wheat not made up by reduction in labour and rent, *Bowyer* 3455——With one-fifth wheat the reduction of poor and county-rate and labour does not make up the loss on wheat on other produce, *Morton* 3803, 3804——Fluctuation in prices and comparative condition of farmers from 1816–1831, *Howard* 5382–5399——Purchase of corn in 1833, with an expectation of a rise in price, which was disappointed by the crop of 1834, *Hodgson* 6657–6660.

Money is lost in some of the best farms of Northumberland from the low price of corn, *Langhorn* 7581–7583——Comparative state of the farming interest as regards prices from 1815, *Umbers* 8494–8499——Present condition of farmers attributed to the low prices of all agricultural produce, *Stares* 11498, 11499——In consequence of the low price of wheat, many farmers have not sown it this year, *Church* 13571——Evidence as to price of wheat, and its influence on the rate of wages, *Morton* 3807–3824——Rise in the price of wheat would increase wages in as great a proportion as it would increase the cost of consumption, *Umbers* 8536, 8537——If prices rise to a certain extent, or rents reduced to that extent, witness would not suffer, *Kemp* 2194——Evidence upon the price of corn, and the amount charged for poor-rates and tithes in witness's statements, *Cox* 14183–14211.

8. *Late rise in the price of Wheat, and causes.*

Price of wheat has risen considerably the last two months, *Hancock* 11505——Twenty-five per cent. rise on wheat in the last few months, but which has gone back 4*s.* a quarter in the last fortnight, *Stares* 11741–11745——Cause of rise in the price of wheat, *Stares* 11533; *Spooner* 15623–15626——Rise in price latterly, caused by the use of wheat in feeding cattle, *Brickwell* 560, 563–565; *Smallpiece* 2853, 2854; *Ellman* 4767–4776; *Scott* 5298–5302; *Bennett* 8296–8300——Increased consumption, *Sturge* 7290–7294; *Calthrop* 8145–8147——Unproductiveness of last harvest, *Sturge* 7290–7294; *Bennett* 8296–8300——Unfavourable state of present crop, *Sturge* 7290–7294; *Ruding* 17277–17278

Price of Corn:—8. *Late rise in the price of Wheat, and causes*—continued.

17278——Smaller stock on hand, *Calthrop* 8145-8147——Diminished growth of wheat *Bowyer* 3564, 3565; *Scott* 5298–5302; *Bennett* 8296–8300; *Bickerton* 8835; *Ellis* 10715, 10716; Lord *Ashburton* 17596;——Speculation from lowness of price, *Scott* 5260–5269; *Bickerton* 8835; *Ellis* 10715, 10716——Reversion from an unnaturally low price, Lord *Ashburton* 17596——Increase of the circulating medium by joint stock banks, *Spooner*, 15580–15582——Rise in the price of wheat will be continued with this year's growth from its good quality, *Smallpiece* 2925–2932——There is every appearance of a rise in the price of wheat, *Church* 13530.

9. *Effect of a rise in price on the condition of the Farmer and the public generally.*

Uniformity of price is the most important to a farmer, *Houghton* 957–962; *Hodgson* 6501; *Ellis* 10962-10981——Farmers in scarce seasons are not compensated for loss of crops by increased price; high prices not a decisive proof of the prosperity of farmers, *Rolfe* 1519, 1520——Rise in price from the prospect of a bad harvest will not benefit those farmers who have sold their corn, but will rather aggravate their difficulties, *Kemp* 2188–2190; *Sturge* 7290–7294; *Calthrop* 7987; *Hancock* 11419–11421; *Spooner* 15577–15579; Earl *Radnor* 16866-16868——High prices did not pay the grower during the adverse seasons 1829–1831, *Houghton* 973, 974——If wheat sold at 7*s.* a bushel, and other corn in proportion, for the remainder of witness's lease, there would still be a necessity for a reduction of rent and tithe, *Page* 2799–2804.

If the price of wheat rose in proportion to the price of other corn, the farmer's condition would not be satisfactory, *Brickwell* 593——A low price caused by an abundant season is an advantage to the farmer; a higher price caused by a wet season would be a disadvantage, *Babbs* 3376–3378——A rise would be advantageous to those who have wheat in hand, *Morton* 3967–3969——If a rise in price takes place from a knowledge that the stock on hand is reducing, and that there is less wheat sown, the rise will be in favour of the agricultural interest to the extent of from four millions to six millions sterling, whilst the other interests of the country would have no cause of complaint, from their previous prosperity, *Hodgson* 6345——The other interests of the community would bear a rise in price of 15*s.* to 20*s.* a quarter, *Hodgson* 6552–6533.

Not to the advantage of the farmer to have very high prices, *Ellis* 10965, 10966——If the legislature can make the price of wheat more steady it will be an advantage, *Ellis* 10987——A rise in prices the principal thing to relieve the farmer, *Rolfe* 1628; *Cortis* 1906, 1907; *Iles* 7370——Upholding prices to assist the farmer would be at the expense of the consumer, *Bell* 12005——Opinion of the farmers that a rise in price would benefit them, which might be the case during present leases, and until labour and other things rose in proportion, Earl *Radnor* 16775–16777——Extent to which a rise in prices would relieve farmers with leases, and leaseholders with encumbered estates, Earl *Radnor* 16769.

Calculation as to the degree in which a rise in the price of wheat operates upon the consumer of bread per day, *Umbers* 8516, 8517——Quantity of wheat consumed by labourers per week, showing that three-pence per week extra to the consumer makes the difference between a fair rent to the landlord, and remuneration to the tenant, or ruin to both, *Rolfe* 1422–1442——If a considerable rise were to take place, farmers in Essex would be able to live, but would not be well off, *Kemp* 2051——Ayrshire farmers depend for remuneration upon all their crops taken together, *Brown* 12340–12343——Purchasers in Montrose generally look at the Mark Lane prices, *Robertson* 13778.

10. *Effect of demand and supply on price.*

Effect of demand and supply on price, *Jacob* 92, 93——Small surplus beyond demand has a greater effect on price than the quantity would seem to justify; effect of surplus foreign import in 1819 on subsequent years to 1818, *Jacob* 225–227——In deficient crops, the effect on price is more than equal to the deficiency, *Jacob* 228–233——Effect of supply and demand, war, and currency, in rising or lowering prices since 1800, *Parker* 12453–12475; since 1817, *Brown* 12297–12310; since 1820, *Walker* 10576–10588——Rise and fall of prices depend on the quantity of money in the market and the facility of getting it, and also upon the supply and demand, *Blacker* 15425; *Haggard* 16227, 16228, Lord *Ashburton* 17004, 17005——Price of produce partly regulated by the demand of the manufacturing and commercial classes, which are now prosperous, *Robertson* 13711–13715——Notwithstanding the use of wheat for fattening cattle, and a greater quantity used in the manufacturing districts, there is still a sufficiently abundant supply to account for the depression in price, *Hodgson* 6336–6338.

11. *Effect of alterations in the currency on price.*

Tendency to fall from a diminution of currency may be met by a tendency to rise from a diminution of crop, *Cooper* 5754, 5755——The state of speculation and the state of crops, on account of seasons, affect the price of wheat much more than any action on the currency, *Sanders* 6293, 6294——Difference made in amount of money under a comparative range of prices of 5*s.* and 8*s.* a bushel for wheat, *Umbers* 8514——Standard price of wheat, which is too low, according to the circulating medium, *Cox* 14122–14126——Further evidence upon prices, as affected by currency and seasons, *Freeland* 14947–14958——A general rate of high prices is perfectly inconsistent with the present standard of value, *Spooner* 15618.

Effect of the altered standard on the prices of wheat, barley and oats, *Spooner* 15807–15810, 15836–15856——Circumstances that cause an extended circulation to produce

an

PRICE OF CORN:—11. *Effect of alterations in the currency on price*—continued.

an advance in price, *Muntz* 16518——Effect of the altered currency on price, Earl of *Radnor* 16834–16837——High prices consequent on an issue of paper is generally considered a state of prosperity, but is objectionable, Earl *Radnor* 16967–16975, 16981——In what manner prices were affected by the increased issues of the bank and by the exclusion of the continental markets, Lord *Ashburton* 17016, 17017——If the old standard had been established in 1819, the price of wheat, and of every element constituting that price, would have risen five per cent., Lord *Ashburton* 17762, 17763——Whether the price of gold or the price of commodities, generally, is the best test of depreciation, Lord *Ashburton* 17029–17031.

12. *Papers laid before the Committee.*

Account of the average price of grain for the years ended 1833, 1834 and 1835, *App. I. p.* 213——Annual average price of wheat in the United Kingdom, from 1831 to 1835 inclusive; aggregate of the above five years, together with the highest and lowest prices in those years, showing also the rate of fluctuation per cent., *App. II. p.* 287——Highest and lowest prices of wheat per imperial quarter in Rotterdam in each of the years from 1829 to 1836 inclusive, with the rate of fluctuation per cent. in each year, *App. II. p.* 287——Prices of wheat per imperial quarter in Paris, Rotterdam and London, in the first week in March, in the years 1822 to 1826 inclusive, *App. II. p.* 287.

See also *Agricultural Distress*, 5, 6. *Agricultural Labourers*, 3, 4. *Agricultural Produce. Agricultural and Manufacturing Interests. America. American War. Baltic. Bank of England Notes. Bank Restriction Act. Banks, Country*, 2. *Barley, I.* 1–3; *III. IV. Bavaria. Beans. Beer Act. Beer Duty. Bonded Corn*, 2, 5. *Bread. Bullion Committee. Capital*, 2, 4. *Cash Payments. Cattle*, 3. *Clay Lands*, 1, 2, 4, 5. *Continent. Corn Laws*, 4, 5. *Corn Rents. Corn Returns. Cultivation, I. III.* 1. *Currency*, 1, 2, 3. *Dantzic Wheat. Farmers*, 1. *Fen Lands. Fixed Duty*, 1, 3. *Foreign Corn. Foreign Markets. France. Freeholders. Germany. Gold Standard. Gold and Silver Standard. Government Bills. Growth of Wheat*, 2. *Harvests. Irish Corn*, 2. *Irish Produce; also its different descriptions under their respective heads. Labour. Landlords*, 1. *Leases. Oats. Potatoes*, 1. *Profit and Loss. Purchase of Land. Rent. Scotch Husbandry. Speculation*, 2. *Spring Crops. Tenantry. Wages. War. Wholesale Prices. Wool.*

Private Property. See *Property Tax.*

Produce of Corn. Acreable produce of wheat, *Morton* 3718, 3719——In Bedfordshire, *Bennett* 8338, 8339——In Bucks, *Brickwell* 442——In Cambridgeshire, *Thurnall* 2270——In Essex, *Babbs* 3277; *Parker* 12389——In Glamorganshire, *David* 4450——In Gloucestershire, *Crowther* 12779–12835——In Hampshire, *Stares* 11509, 11510——In Lancashire, *Hall* 4965, 4966——In Leicestershire, *Ellis* 10742, 10762, 10763——In Lincolnshire, *Atkinson* 5888–5934——In Lincoln, *Iles* 7346, 7350, 7408, 7409; *Byron* 8436–8438——In Shropshire, *Bickerton* 8673, 8674, 8689——In Suffolk, *Cooper* 5625–5628 In Surrey, *Smallpiece* 2864, 2865——In Sussex, *Ellman* 4579; *Goodman* 11000; *Freeland* 14923–14928——In Somersetshire, *Hancock* 11287, 11384——In Yorkshire, *Howard* 5604——In Ireland, *Brassington* 14605–14607——In Ayrshire, *Brown* 12359–12361——In East Lothian, *Hope* 9642, 9643, 9876, 9879——In Haddingtonshire, *Brodie* 10287, 10291——In Kincardineshire, *Menzies* 14102——In Dumfries, *Church* 13484–13486——On farms within fifteen miles of London, having the advantage of London manure, *Sherborn* 4103–4106.

Whether witness's farm in Essex is capable of producing as much acreable produce as seventeen years ago, *Babbs* 3327–3331——Average produce of the kingdom per acre, *Sanders* 6720, 6721, 6834, 6837——Average produce of England per acre is under twenty-four bushels; fifty shillings a quarter would not keep those lands in cultivation, *Calthrop* 7881, 7882——Evidence as to the manner in which the extent of the acreable produce of the kingdom is ascertained and extent of the crops 1832–1835, *Hodgson* 6386–6402——Further evidence as to the best means of ascertaining the acreage of wheat now and ten or fifteen years ago, *Sanders* 7007–7012——Average produce per acre of the kingdom greatly under-rated, *Sanders* 6688, 6689.

Increased production of wheat has been sufficient to meet the increased population since 1821, *Calthrop* 8137–8141——Increase therein in the kingdom generally, *Rolfe* 1466–1469; *Bowyer* 3534, 3535; *Scott* 5182–5187; *Sanders* 6121, 6126, 6127, 6187–6191, 6295; *Sturge* 7181–7185, 7221, 7222; *Langhorn* 7595–7598; *Neave* 9347–9351; *Oliphant* 11088——On the east coast of England, *Hodgson* 6334——In Huntingdonshire, *Bowyer* 3431, 3432——In Lincolnshire, *Sanders* 6835, 6836——Caused by dry seasons, *Bowyer* 3534, 3535; *Neave* 9347–9351——Extra number of acres sown, *Bowyer* 3556; *Scott* 5182–5187——Improvements in agriculture, *Scott* 5182–5187; *Sanders* 6295; *Langhorn* 7595–7598; *Neave* 9347–9351——Increased draining, *Langhorn* 7595–7598——Use of bone manure, *Langhorn* 7595–7598——The gross produce on both the English and Scotch side of the border has increased since 1819, *Church* 13521–13524——Gross produce in Forfar, Aberdeen and Kincardine has increased since 1824 and since 1830, *Robertson* 13652–13656——Produce of wheat on the whole district is on the increase from the thorough draining, *Menzies* 14045–14047.

Acreable produce of corn land is greater, but not the total amount, from there being less land in tillage, *Shawe* 14325, 14326——Acreable produce of wheat on a mixed soil,

Produce of Corn—continued.

M'Dougal 14549–14551——Twenty-eight bushels can be obtained on wheat land generally, which will be maintained in cultivation with present rents, at 6*s*., *M'Dougal* 14583–14586——Produce on upland soils much greater than that of the lowland soils, *Sanders* 6864——No increased produce of crops in the Isle of Thanet in the last three or four years, *Cramp* 9502——Increased production on the good lands would counterbalance the loss on the bad lands thrown out of cultivation, *Sanders* 6852, 6853.

The last Committee on agriculture reported that in years of average production there was a necessity for a supply from abroad, Lord *Ashburton* 17026——Since 1819 there has been only three years of importation, which with an immense increase of population proves an extraordinary increase in the produce of agriculture, *Sanders* 6127——Quantity of wheat remaining in the country beyond the consumption to the usual period of harvest, *Ruding* 17177–17179——The crop of 1834 was generally very fine on the continent, *Ruding* 17204.

See also *Agricultural Distress*, 5. *Agricultural Produce*. *Barley, III.* 3. *Bone Manure*. *Capital*, 4. *Cattle*. *Clay Lands*, 2, 6, 7, 8. *Consumption of Corn*. *Corn Laws*, 2. *Draining*. *Farms*, 2. *Harvests*, 2. *Statistics*.

Productive Classes. Effect on all the productive classes of the resumption of cash payments in 1819 and the subsequent issue of notes in 1822, *Spooner* 15599–15617——Up to within about two years back most of the productive interests of the country have been very far from a flourishing state, *Burgess* 15962——Causes of the depression of the productive classes during the last twenty years, *Burgess* 15971.

See also *Capitalists*. *Cash Payments*. *Continent*. *Export Trade*. *Labouring Classes*. *Standard of Value*.

Profit and Loss. If improvements have been introduced in some parts of the country and not in others, the profits of farming would be diminished in those parts where they have not been introduced, *Morton* 3831–3833——The result of witness's farming no criterion for the distress or prosperity of the rest of England, *Sherborn* 4143——Profit and loss on farming on different descriptions of land, *Cortis* 1875–1888——Extent of cultivation of witness's farm and profit arising from it, *Kemp* 2169–2183——Debtor and creditor account on witness's farm, 1834 to 1835, *Thurnall* 2392–2394——Statement of the receipts and expenses of the farm in Southminster and loss on the farm, *Page* 2648–2661——Further evidence as to profit and loss on different articles of produce, *Page* 2772–2790.

Expenses incurred in and proceeds received from cultivating witness's farms from 1824–1836, *Hall* 4894–4899——Nature of the soil and expenses incurred in, and the proceeds received from, the cultivation of witness's farm in Somersetshire from 1831–1836, *Hall* 4922-4960——Farmers of late years have been obliged to compensate themselves out of other crops for the cultivation of wheat, *Howard* 5380, 5381——Profit and loss on the cultivation of an acre of land on the five-course system, *Bickerton* 8684–8687——Particulars as to the profit or loss on stock farming, *Freeland* 14883–14896——No profit on witness's farm latterly, *Tillyer* 4215.

Farmers' profits have not been so great of late as they were thirty or forty years ago, *Bickerton* 8751——Prices have been too low to afford much profit the last three years, *Parker* 12393–12395——Statements showing loss on farming, principally from the low price of wheat: In Bucks, *Brickwell* 312, 313; *Morton* 3850——In Essex, *Rolfe* 1585–1589; *Babbs* 3218–3226, 3279——In Suffolk, *Cooper* 5703–5711, 5808–5810——Profit and loss may be ascertained by keeping an account of the produce and charges on a farm without keeping regular books or taking stock, *Babbs* 3281–3286, 3316–3320, 3405-3421——Gain upon arable land in the last two years from extraordinary crops, *Ellis* 10741——Profit ought to be 15 per cent. on capital employed, *Stares* 11755.

Examination upon the capital invested and profits made by witness during the last thirty years; money was made fast when wheat was 15*s*. to 20*s*. a bushel, but within the last ten years profits have been great from the land returning the capital laid out upon it in improvements, *Crowther* 13354–13367——The farm has been farmed to a profit during the last three years, *Bell* 11872–11877, 11887, 11896–11898——Improvements on witness's farm have caused it to yield a profit; the draining that has been done has paid itself, but has not been sufficient to affect the general return, *Bell* 11897–11909——In estimating profit and loss the price of flocks must be taken into account as well as the price of grain, *Bell* 12013–12015——Are not calculated upon wheat only but upon stock and every thing, *Crowther* 12816——Farmers in Scotland and on the border depend for remuneration on all their crops taken together, and not upon grain solely, *Church* 13457–13462——Farmers' profits, though moderate, are established upon a firm basis, *Robertson* 13749–13752.

See also *Clay Lands*, 2, 3. *Cultivation, III.* 2.

Property Tax. Evidence in favour of a property tax and against an income tax, *Bickerton* 8884–8900——Papers relating to the property tax, as regards private property, destroyed by an order of the House of Commons some years ago, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9065——It should not be imposed except in the last necessity, *Bell* 12085.

See also *Agricultural Distress*, 6. *Malt Duty*, 4.

Property. Supposed annual value of property liable to the land tax, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9066.

Prosecutions, the expense of, are very heavy in Surrey, *Smallpiece* 3089, 3090——Manner in which public prosecutions are paid in Scotland, *Oliphant* 11113.

Protecting Duty. See *Corn Laws*, 2.

Provincial Banks. The establishment of provincial banks in Ireland a very great improvement, *Sanders* 7088——Provincial banks will be disadvantageous to farmers, as their obtaining assistance from them will cause the landlords to look with great suspicion on them, and not give them that time they now do, *Shawe* 14502–14507——Advantages of the Provincial Bank of Ireland; how far it has lowered the rate of interest, *Brassington* 14742–14749.

Provisions. Comparative prices of provisions as affecting the present condition of labourers, *Freeland* 14940–14945.

See also *Agricultural Labourers*, 4. *Labouring Classes. Poor Law Amendment Act. Wages*, 2.

Prussia. Export duty put on by the King of Prussia during the scarcity of 1800, *Fison* 12751–12753——The Prussian government has given great facilities for the obtaining capital for the agricultural classes by means of a public company, which enables them to hold stock over depressed markets, *Burgess* 16052–16055.

Purchase of Land. If wheat has got to its lowest price it would be a good time to purchase land, *Brickwell* 542, 543——There are some heavy lands that cannot be turned into money at any price, *Houghton* 1138–1149——Fore-closure of a mortgage, and impossibility of selling the estate by auction for want of bidders, *Houghton* 1142, 1173–1178——Owners do not like to sell their lands, not being able to employ the money in another way, *Smallpiece* 3005–3007——Difficulty of effecting sales of land, *Smallpiece* 3127–3129; *Howard* 5612, 5613; *Langhorn* 9037——Purchases of land have, in many cases, been made injudiciously, but the falling prices have partly reduced the value, *Howden* 10223–10229.

Number of years purchase on sale of land must be considered according to the reduced rental, *Houghton* 1154–1170——Only poor lands in Bucks that are not worth more than twenty-five years' purchase, *Brickwell* 367–372, 420–425—— Further evidence upon the number of years' purchase on good and bad land, *Brickwell* 508–514——One of the finest farms in Buckinghamshire sold rather under thirty years' purchase, *Houghton* 690——Thirty years' purchase obtained for land in Essex, *Babbs* 3290–3300——Twenty-eight years' purchase considered a fair price for land, Earl *Radnor* 16855–16857——Number of years' purchase of land in Essex, *Babbs* 3311–3315——In Surrey, *Smallpiece* 3065, 3066.

Witness would not object to give 200 years' purchase for a farm near Guildford, which would not let for more than one shilling an acre, in consequence of improvements that might be made on it, which could not be made on it, by a tenant, *Smallpiece* 3130–3141——Light lands in Bucks do not sell so well as might be expected, *Morton* 3770——A farm sold at 10*l.* per acre, after being improved, which was formerly bought at 28*l.* per acre, *Howard* 5585–5591——Supposed price of a particular farm in Bucks twenty years ago, and at present, *Morton* 3922–3926——Value of property remains much about the same as within the last few years, from twenty-six to twenty-seven years' purchase, *M'Dougal* 14546.

See also *Aylesbury, Vale of. Betchworth Estate. Clay Land*, 4. *Daly*, Mr. *Bowes. Greenwich Hospital Estates. Land. Value of Land.*

Q.

Quality of Wheat. Wheat does not turn out so well this harvest as the two preceding ones, *Houghton* 813——When wheat has been laid it is considered a very low wheat, *Thurnall* 2474——Great damage to the wheat from the wet, within twenty miles of London, last year, *Sherborn* 4065–4068——Of wheat has improved, *Bowyer* 3433; *Scott* 5236, 5237——Wheat brought to Uxbridge market is superior to most, *Morton* 3954–3957, 3976–3978——The quality of corn 1834 and 1835 was good, and as much as the average weight of previous years, *Hodgson* 6332, 6333——Wheat in Haddington is superior to the average of Scotland, but not equal to English wheat, *Howden* 10005–10006.

See also *Barley*, 2. *Flour. Irish Corn*, 2. *Weight of Wheat.*

Quotas for the Land Tax. Manner in which land tax was fixed in 1798 by Act 38 Geo. III., c. 5, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9049——In the event of an equalized rate being determined on, the principle of a fixed and permanent rate on the annual value would be preferable to continuing that of fixed quotas, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9070——The land tax office does not interfere with the manner in which the quotas are levied, so that the amount of the quota is paid into the Exchequer, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9097–9098.

R.

Races. Particulars as to races run on witness's land, the attendance of farmers thereat, and the breeding of horses for the purpose, *Crowther* 13317–13339.

Radnor, The Earl of. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Price of corn for a century or two previous to 1792 pretty steady at 40*s.*; variations in the price from 1797 to the end of the war, 16691–16698——Variations in price will take place from seasons as well as from the value of money, 16698, 16699——Rise in prices from the superabundance of currency occasioned by the Bank Restriction Act of 1797, 16700–16703——Prices lowered after the war, owing to the anticipation of a return to cash payments, and to Mr. Peel's Bill of 1819, 16704–16707——Distress of both manufacturing and agricultural classes, 1819–1822, caused by low prices consequent on that measure, 16708–16711.

Measures taken by Government to alleviate the distress by the issue of one-pound notes in 1823, and rise in prices in consequence, followed by the panic of 1825, 16712–16716——A more extended circulation of paper than the operations of the country will absorb will tend to raise prices and drive the gold out of the country, 16717–16720——Alteration of the gold standard that might occasion a higher range of prices, 16721–16724——Manufacturers have been for some months past in a thriving condition, on a wholesome foundation, 16726.

Causes of the rise in different articles of agricultural produce, 16726–16730—Extent of the issues of joint stock banks, and consequent rise in price, 16731–16734——Mr. Peel's Bill of 1819 was not a just measure, unaccompanied by an alteration of the standard, 16735——Supposed and actual effect of that measure on prices, 16736–16746——There may have been a nominal reduction of taxation, and real increase from the change in the value of money, 16747, 16748——Instead of the bill of 1819, it would have been just to have altered the standard to an extent equal to the depreciation previously prevailing; difficulty of calculating the depreciation, 16749–16752.

Advantage of a silver currency; is adopted by all other countries; would protect the bank in the event of a run, 16755–16757——Rise in prices from altered currency would not relieve agriculture, as all other prices would rise, 16758–16763——Circumstances that affect manufactures as regards distress or prosperity, particularly with regard to foreign markets, 16764–16768——Extent to which a rise in prices would relieve farmers with leases, and land holders with encumbered estates, 16769——Relief that the diminution of taxation would afford might be much counteracted by the rise of price, owing to the bill of 1819, 16770–16774.

Opinion of farmers that a rise in prices would benefit them, which might be the case during present leases, and until labour and other things rose in proportion, 16775–16777——Agriculture is not distressed, except in cases of long leases at high rents; complaints by farmers would show a contrary opinion on their part, but which complaints are disappearing, 16777–16788——Low prices occasioned by increased produce from improvements in agriculture in England and imports from Ireland, 16789——Circumstances which may tend to produce a price of corn since the return to cash payments, different to that which existed prior to the Bank Restriction Act, 16789–16796——It would be just that a rectification should take place of all contracts existing previous to 1819, that were affected by the alteration of the currency at that period; but there are doubts as to its practicability, 16797–16811.

Part of the national debt is a contract existing under those circumstances, and should be rectified, except as to such part as was contracted for under the present standard, 16812–16815——Persons who had advanced money to the State previous to 1797, and received their interest in a depreciated currency, would have equal right to their contracts being revised, 16816–16818——Difficulty of going through a revision of the contracts of the present and former holders of the national debt, 16819–16823——Witness's proposition in 1819 would not have met the depreciation that did take place; if it had been adopted; an adjustment of contracts would have been more incumbent, 16824–16828——Depreciation of prices by the bill of 1819 was cent. per cent., 16829, 16830.

Fluctuation of prices from the alternate extension and contraction of the bank issues caused the outcry for a return to cash payments, 16831, 16832——Return to cash payments has not prejudiced agriculture generally, 16833——Combined imports from Ireland and increased produce have reduced prices of agricultural produce; further effect of the altered currency, 16834–16837——Increase of price by alteration of currency would only be of benefit to those under fixed engagements, 16838–16845——Poor Law Bill has caused a demand for agricultural labour, 16846, 16847——Rise in price from alteration of currency would not cause a permanent increase in the demand for labour, 16848, 16849——It would make the condition of labourers worse, as wages would not be increased in the same ratio as provisions, 16851–16853.

Twenty-eight years' purchase considered a fair price for land, 16855–16857——With the exception of the late rise in price, the agricultural labourer is better off than at any time, 16858–16860——Where rents have been adjusted, the tenantry are not suffering, 16861–16865——In the long run farmers or labourers would not be benefited by higher prices, 16866–16868——Comparative condition of labourers under Poor Law Bill and with

Radnor, The Earl of. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

with the high prices of the war, 16869–16874——Further evidence upon the effect of the measure of 1819 and subsequent measure of 1827, 16875–16891——Doubts whether farmers have been paying a higher rate of wages than their profits allow, 16892–16894——Cause of fires at the period when Lord Grey came into office, and effect of them on wages and machinery, 16895–16903——Evidence, showing that certain agriculturists may have suffered from the measure of 1819, and yet agriculture itself be flourishing, 16904–16923.

Further evidence upon the causes and effects of the expansion and contraction of the bank issues previous to the measure of 1819, 16924–16933——Alteration of the present standard after it has existed seventeen years must be viewed with apprehension, 16936–16938——Evils of an alteration of the standard, or a forced issue of paper without it, 16939–16946——Agriculture generally does not require any such alteration; tenants with high rents and low prices may be in distress, 16947–16949——Reduction of the national debt would be better than an alteration of the standard or an issue of paper, 16950–16955——Issue of one-pound notes in 1824 and 1825 postponed the measure of 1819, and by that means affected contracts, 16956–16963.

Whether an expensive war could be carried on under the present standard, 16964–16966——High prices consequent on an issue of paper is generally considered a state of prosperity, 16967–16975——Further advantages of the Poor Law Bill in causing employment of labourers, 16976–16980, 16983–16986——High prices founded on an alteration of the currency objectionable, 16981, 16982——Manner in which the issue of paper to diminish taxation is a tampering with the currency, 16990–16992——Period the Act of 1819 has been legally and effectually in operation, 16993–16997——Silver standard preferable to a gold one, 16998——If an alteration of the standard took place, an equitable adjustment of contracts would still be advisable, 16999–17002.

Rags. They are too expensive to be used as manure, *Sherborn* 4129.

Railroads. Surplus labour employed on railroads, *Rolfe* 1601–1603; *Cortis* 1831–1833——They will tend to equalize prices, and reduce the advantage of farms near London, *Sherborn* 4092——Speculations in railways attributed to the success of the Liverpool and Manchester one, and to the public mind being more alive to the value of railways, *Sanders* 6217——Speculation latterly has principally thrown itself in railways, *Sturge* 7281——Have been of very great advantage to the neighbourhood of Woburn, *Bennett* 8271——Advantages of a railroad in the neighbourhood of Leicester as regards reducing the expense of conveyance of lime, *Ellis* 10769–10772.

See also *Wages,* 1.

Rams. Witness has had several ram sales within the last twenty years, by which he has made money, *Umbers* 8482, 8483, 8492.

Rape Dust, Rape Cake, and Rape Seed. Inability of farmers to purchase it prevents its being so much used as formerly in Cambridgeshire, and which prevents so good crops being grown, *Thurnall* 2340–2342——Duty thereon is nominal; there were complaints when the duty was reduced, *Bowyer* 3597, 3598——Rape and cole-seed are extensively grown on the fens of Lincolnshire, *Iles* 7474–7477——Sums laid out in rape-cake and lime, *Hope* 9907–9918——It is not protected by high import duties, *Fison* 12681——Witness feeds off all his rape with sheep, *Church* 13494, 13495——Rape-dust is now beginning to be used as manure in some parts of Scotland, *Robertson* 13607——Account of the number of quarters of rape-seed, rape-cake, and linseed-cake imported into Great Britain, distinguishing England from Scotland, in the years 1821 to 1835 respectively, and the duty paid thereon, *App. I. p.* 214.

See also *Sheep.*

Rates. Difficulty in collecting rates at Duxford, Cambridgeshire, *Thurnall* 2435.

Raw Materials. Rise of prices of raw materials and manufactured goods is partly owing to the great deficiency of supply compared with the demand, *Burgess* 16011.

Reaping. The scythe and sickle have been superseded in Scotland, by a large smooth hook, for getting in the harvest, *Hope* 9946–9957.

Reaping Machine. Particulars as to the invention of a reaping machine, by which an English acre can be cut in an hour, at one-third the expense, *Smith* 15091–15098.

Reclaiming Land. See *Alluvial Soil. Bog Lands. Waste Lands.*

Recovery of Land Tax. Modes of proceeding to recover land tax against landlord and tenant, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9087–9096.

Redundancy of Produce. See *Agricultural Distress,* 5.

Reform Bill. The Reform Bill has not affected the labouring population, though it has the small farmers, *Shawe* 14474–14476——The political disturbances of 1830, which passed the Reform Bill, occasioned by low prices, *Muntz* 16349–16451.

RENT:

1. *Amount of Rent per acre.*
2. *Increase that has taken place in Rent.*
3. *Extent to which reduction has taken place, and how far sufficient.*
4. *Condition of Farmers as regards Rent.*
5. *Payment of Rent.*
6. *Effect of altering the currency on Rent.*
7. *Effect of diminished prices on Rent.*
8. *Corn Rents.*

1. *Amount of Rent per acre.*

Average rate per acre on different soils, and comparison with former years: In Bedfordshire, *Bennett* 8353–8375——In Bucks, *Brickwell* 386; *Morton* 3648–3649——In Essex, *Kemp* 1929–1932; *Babbs* 3211–3213, 3222, 3380–3388, 11019–11025——In Gloucestershire, *Crowther* 13024——In Hampshire, *Stares* 11746–11748——In Middlesex, *Sherborn* 3998, 4090, 4091——In Suffolk, *Cooper* 5652–5655——In Sussex, *Freeland* 14801–14804; *Goodman* 11075–11078——In Lincolnshire, *Iles* 7460–7473; *Calthrop* 7896–7900——In the East Riding of York, *Howard* 5376——Rents, generally speaking, are something too high, *Calthrop* 8111——Comparative rents in the years 1794, 1816, and at present, on witness's farm, *Umbers* 8637–8647——Average rent that clay land will bear after it has been drained, *Walker* 10544——Whether rents are higher in proportion now to what they were in 1797, taking into consideration the improvements on land, *Parker* 12520–12527——Quite as low now as it was forty years ago, *Brickwell* 657–659——Comparative rents before the war, and since, *Smallpiece* 3042–3055——Rents were not sufficiently high during the war, *Calthrop* 7901.

[In Ireland.]—Rent per acre of the best land in Ireland: Tipperary and Limerick, *Brassington* 14608——Kildare, *Shawe* 14277——Are very high in Ireland, *Sanders* 6018——Rent of land in Ireland as compared with land of the same quality in England, *Brassington* 14636–14639——The rents in Armagh, Tyrone and Cavan are as low as in any other parts of the British dominions; but still the tenants have not so good a bargain as during the war, *Blacker* 15566–15568——Rents fell from the close of the war to 1819; they are now stationary, *Brassington* 14599, 14600.

[In Scotland.]—Rent paid in 1793 on witness's farm, *Hope* 9898–9901——Average rent paid by witness previous to, and since, 1831, *Hope* 9906——Amount paid on witness's present and former lease, *Church* 13473–13480——Average rents in Kincardine, Forfar, and Aberdeen, and description of soils, *Robertson* 13617–13623——They are higher now in East Lothian than previous to the war, from better cultivation, *Brodie* 10409–10413——As high rents paid as twenty years ago, *Bell* 12016–12018.

2. *Increase that has taken place in Rent.*

Rents have not risen since 1833, but poor-rates have diminished, which has caused them to get further apart, *Smallpiece* 3158——Many farms let higher now than they did before the Bank Restriction Act, *Thurnall* 2576–2580——Increase of rents on the wolds did not take place till the tenants had been fairly remunerated for the expenses they were put to on the lands being enclosed, *Atkinson* 5951–5957——Increased rent on witness's farm since 1826, *Ellis* 10747, 10748——Increase of rents in Lincolnshire, *Houghton* 1105–1120——The higher rent on witness's farm could not be paid but for the improved cultivation, *Bell* 12046–12050——Farms out of lease and re-let have fetched better rents from improvements made, *Menzies* 13989–13992——Farms in the market in the last two years have advanced in rent, *M'Dougal* 14519.

3. *Extent to which reduction has taken place, and how far sufficient.*

Reduction of, in different parts of the kingdom, since the war, *Houghton* 789, 1128–1135——Money-rents were reduced immediately after the war, *Brown* 12177–12180, 12188–12191——Cause of rents falling in 1821 was from the low price of wheat and other produce, and the change in the currency, *Boniface* 13181–13189——Reduction of rents in Bucks, *Brickwell* 515; *Houghton* 679–691; *Rolfe* 1372–1380; *Morton* 3650–3680, 3720–3733——In Essex, *Kemp* 2005–2010——In Gloucestershire, *Hall* 4977–4979——In Haddington, *Brodie* 10311–10313——In Huntingdonshire, *Bowyer* 3441–3443, 3458——In Leicestershire, *Ellis* 10746——In Middlesex, *Sherborn* 4015; *Tillyer* 4162, 4178–4180——In Northumberland, *Langhorn* 7701–7716——In Nottinghamshire, *Stevenson* 13061–13068——In Roxburgh, *M'Dougal*, 14547, 14548——In Somersetshire, *Hancock* 11304–11306, 11383——In Surrey, *Smallpiece* 2984–2994, 3125, 3126——In Warwickshire, *Umbers* 8630, 8631.

Per centage reduction in rents, which need not have been to the extent it has had they been lowered in sufficient time, and which would have caused farmers to have been better off and farms in better condition, *Parker* 12405–12409——Rate or per centage of decrease in rents: In Bucks, *Rolfe* 1658–1661——In Berwick, ten per cent. on new leases, *Langhorn* 7627——In Essex, *Babbs* 3380–3388——In Glamorganshire, *David* 4445–4449——In Lincolnshire, fifteen per cent., *Calthrop* 7896–7900——In Northumberland, twenty per cent., *Langhorn*, 7554, 7555, 7620–7625——In Oxfordshire, fifteen to twenty-five per cent., *Brickwell* 320–322——In Somersetshire, *Hancock* 11383——In Suffolk, on fresh hires, *Cooper* 5651——Twelve to twelve and a half per cent., *Cooper* 5815——In York, East Riding, forty per cent., *Howard* 5370–5374——Allowances by landlords in years of depression: In Middlesex, *Sherborn* 3999–4001——In Scotland *Robertson*,

RENT:—3. *Extent to which reduction has taken place, and how far sufficient*—continued.

Robertson 13649——Allowances have been made in some parts, particularly to sheep farmers, on account of the loss in turnips, *Jacob* 277——There are several farms where the rent has been reduced to what it was in 1792, *Stares* 11579——On poor soils not sufficiently reduced, *Ellis* 10721–10724——Has not been reduced on witness's farm at Bedfont, *Sherborn* 3999–4001——Witness has not had a reduction of rent on either of his leases, *Stares* 11758–11769——Further reduction of rent that would enable witness to obtain ten per cent. on his capital, *Kemp* 2214–2220.

Loss in consequence of rent not being reduced; other farms of as good land at a less rent, *Goodman* 11019–11025——There has not been a sufficient adjustment of rents between the war and present prices, *Calthrop* 8039, 8040—— Reduction of rent has not been equal to the rise occasioned by the war, and the improvements have not been sufficient to pay those increased rents, *Fison* 12650–12653——The war rents have not been reduced in a corresponding ratio to the reduction of prices since the peace, *Fison* 12746, 12747——Extent of reduction of rent necessary if other charges reduced, *Freeland* 14814——Landlords have endeavoured to meet their tenants with regard to reduction of rent, *Neave* 9413, 9414; *Cramp* 9560–9562; *Goodman* 11042–11046; *Smith* 15078–15080 ——They have been but rarely reduced, improvements in agriculture having prevented the necessity for reduction, *Walker* 10695.

4. *Condition of Farmers as regards Rent.*

Rent paid out of capital or stock, and when there has been nothing but produce to pay, the land has gone out of condition, and the rent is in arrear, *Rolfe* 1388–1390——Whether the rent paid formerly, and at present, in Bucks, bears a relative proportion to wages, *Brickwell* 605——Opinion of farmers that high rents have been paid at the expense of labour, *Fison* 12664——Where money-rents have been paid twelve years ago and have not been reduced, the farmers are suffering, *Hope* 9657–9662——Farmers who have had high money-rents have been much reduced in circumstances within the last twenty years, *Hope* 9932–9934——Amount of rents has very little to do with the present distress, *Goodman* 11026——Where rents have been adjusted, the tenantry are not suffering, Earl *Radnor* 16861–16865.

5. *Payment of Rent.*

Rents are well paid in Bucks, *Brickwell* 450; *Houghton* 932–936——In Lincolnshire, by large occupiers, *Calthrop* 7896–7900——In Leicestershire, *Sanders* 7024–7030 ——They have been better paid during the last two or three years from the good crops, *Neave* 9410–9412——Rents are better paid than the tradesmen at present: In Bedford, *Bennett* 8211, 8212——In Bucks, *Houghton* 928–931——In Cambridge, *Thurnall* 2372 ——In Hampshire, *Stares* 11713–11715——In Huntingdonshire, *Bowyer* 3503–3506—— In Kent, *Neave* 9450 ——In Leicestershire, *Sanders* 7024–7030 ——In Shropshire, *Bickerton* 8870–8872, 8905——In Warwickshire, *Umbers* 8603, 8604——Not so well paid last year, *Jacob* 241; *Rolfe* 1487, 1488——Farmers not so well able to pay their rents now as formerly, *Sherborn* 4035 ——Rent of clay land, which is badly paid, though material reductions have been made, *Boniface* 13126, 13127——Is in arrear in a vast many cases in Essex, *Page* 2687, 2688——There are not many cases of arrears in Essex, *Babbs* 3238——There are no arrears of rent, *Brown* 12153–12156.

6. *Effect of altering the currency on Rent.*

Alteration of the currency would raise prices and benefit the farmer; whether that would not be better than a reduction of rent, *Freeland* 14824–14837——If prices rose very materially with a change in the currency, rents would rise, but not with an average of 56*s.*, *Freeland* 14936–14939——Depreciation of value would cause rents to be maintained but not risen, except in cases where they have been very much lowered, *Spooner* 15794–15797——Effect of proposed alteration of currency on rents and poor-rates, *Spooner* 15858–15864——It is a complete fallacy to suppose that the Scotch one-pound notes keep up rents in Scotland, *Langhorn* 7772.

7. *Effect of diminished prices on Rent.*

Prices at which wheat and barley would have been valued in 1814 in calculating rent, *Rolfe* 1658–1661——Great variety of soil on witness's farm; manner in which it is separated in valuing for rent, *M'Dougal* 14520–14522——Comparison between 1824 and 1833 with regard to rents and prices, *Langhorn* 7608–7619——Rents usually paid from the sales of cattle and dairy produce in Aberdeen, *Walker* 10686——Lands that have had great capital laid out in improvements ought to yield more rent, if price of corn would allow it, *Thurnall* 2581–2586——Witness would give 20*s.* an acre for a farm that is to let near Denham, on the prospect of increased price for wheat, and reduced local burthens, *Morton* 3785–3790——Witness's farm being in a high state of cultivation could be let at the same rent now paid, *Stares* 11776, 11777.

Manner in which the price of produce affects the bargains between landlords and tenants, *Hodgson* 6558, 6565——Witness's rent, according to his own management, will rise 200*l.* a year when wheat gets up to 60*s.*, *Crowther* 12782–12785, 13025–13030——Tenants should be entitled to make three rents, *Shawe* 14384–14386—— The difficulty of the landlord; abating his rent has increased the exertions of the tenants, *Blacker* 15445, 15446, 15482–15487 ——Rent should be assimilated to prices, *Bell* 12006 —— Farmers are generally contented where the rents are adjusted to the prices, *Menzies* 14058–14063, 14097–14101 —— Great reductions have been made in rents, though not sufficient for the present price of corn, *Kemp* 2111–2119;

Rent:—7. *Effect of diminished prices on Rent*—continued.

Calthrop 7896–7900——Reduction of the whole rent would not be equal to the fall in prices, *Rolfe* 1656, 1657; *Blacker* 15445, 15446, 15482–15487——Present rents can be maintained with wheat at 6*s*. *M'Dougal* 14555–14557——Sufficient abatement cannot be made to allow wheat to be cultivated at 6*s*. per bushel, *Umbers* 8656–8658——At 5*s*., *Houghton* 963–971; *Morton* 3893, 3894——Lands that will not pay a rent with wheat at 40*s*., *Ellis* 10814–10817; *Parker* 12510–12513.

Rent cannot be paid with wheat at present prices, *Cortis* 1834; *Hancock* 11307, 11375, 11376; *Stares* 11580–11584——Except with extraordinary crops, *Parker* 12599——Doubts whether any rent could be paid on the worst description of land, *Sanders* 6684–6687——Lands in Howdenshire could not remain in cultivation rent free, *Howard* 5370–5374——Lands in Holderness will not bear much rent, but may be kept in cultivation, *Howard* 5375–5378——In a few years there will be no rent upon the average land of the kingdom; the expense of cultivation will take the produce; the land will be thrown out of cultivation, and there will be a state of starvation, *Muntz* 16513–16517.

8. *Corn Rents.*

Calculation of rent according to the price of wheat, *Brickwell* 516–522——Impossibility of paying a money-rent caused the conversion into a corn-rent, *Howden* 10027——They are mostly paid in money, but in some instances according to the fiars prices of corn and other produce, *Brown* 12103, 12104——Rents paid sometimes in corn and sometimes in money, *Robertson* 13602——There are some grain-rents, but they are most generally money-rents, *M'Dougal* 14518.

See also *Agricultural Distress*, 5, 6. *Agricultural Prosperity*. *Allotment System*. *Bedford*, Duke of. *Bone Manure*. *Capital*, 3. *Cheese Rents*. *Clay Lands*, 4, 8. *Con-acre System*. *Corn Rents*. *Cottage Rents*. *Cottiers*. *Cultivation, II*. 3. *Farmers*, 1. *Farms*. *Fixed Duty*, 7. *Flax*, 1. *Gold Standard*. *Grass Lands*, 1. *Landlords*, 1, 2, 3, 4. *Loans*. *Malt Tax*, 3. *Marsh Land*. *Price of Corn*, 3, 7, 9. *Produce of Corn*. *Purchase of Land*. *Scotch Produce*. *Stock on Hand*. *Tenantry*, 1. *Tithes*, 1.

Revenue. Amount of revenue that would be produced by an equalized rate of 1*s*. in the pound on unredeemed property, *Wood* and *Garnett*, 9067–9069.

See also *Barley, V*. 2. *Malt Duty*, 1, 6.

Ricardo, Mr. He took too narrow a view of the question of altering the currency when he stated it would only affect price five per cent., Lord *Ashburton*, 17511–17688.

Richhill Estate. Mr. Anderson's statement as to agriculturists on Richhill estate, county Armagh, *Blacker* 15405——Clover viewed on 8th and 9th June, *Blacker* 15405——Mr. Green's statement; turnips viewed in the Richhill Branch Farming Society on 9th and 10th November 1835, *Blacker* 15405.

Riots. The riots caused a rise in wages from 10 to 15 per cent., but they are now reduced to what they were before that time, *Stares* 11512, 11513——Riots in 1830 rose wages which have never been reduced in proportion to the price of wheat, *Boniface*, 13171–13173.

See also *Beef*. *Clay Lands*, 1, 8. *Fires*. *Intimidation*. *Wages*, 1.

Roads, Ireland. Small farmers in Armagh get employment on the roads or by task-work, *Blacker* 15383.

Road-money, Scotland. Amount of road-money paid by tenants of land in Scotland, *Brown* 12192——Road-money in Dumfries about four-pence in the pound, *Church* 13599; in Kincardineshire, *Robertson* 13616——Manner in which county roads are kept in repair, *Brown* 12256–12259.

Roads, Scotland. Immense improvements of roads of late years, though the cross roads are not under good management, *M'Dougal* 14580–14582.

Robertson, George. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Farmer, surveyor and agent at Balmanno, in Kincardineshire, 13596, 13597——Witness's information extends to the east coast of Scotland, and more particularly to Forfarshire, Kincardineshire and Aberdeenshire, 13598——Condition of farmers not prosperous, but they are in a sound and healthy state, 13599–13628——Duration of leases, 13600, 13601——Rents paid sometimes in corn and sometimes in money, 13602——Great improvements have taken place since 1824; of what they consist, 13603–13607——More barley now grown than wheat, 13609——Sheep husbandry has become more common, the stock being shipped for the English market from the advantages of steam navigation, 13609, 13610.

There is no difficulty of getting tenants, but, on the contrary, a great competition for farms, 13611–13613, 13645——Local burthens are light, 13614–13616——Average rents in each of the three counties, and description of soils, 13617–13623——Condition of farmers much improved since 1824, 13624, 13625——There has been an adjustment between landlord and tenant, commutation of money into corn-rents, and in some cases an outlay in draining and improving, 13626, 13627——Modes of relief suggested for Scotland are, reduction of malt tax, a property tax and a modified income tax; for England, a fixed valuation of tithes

Robertson, George. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

tithes would benefit, 15629–15635——Condition of the working peasant has improved; comparative wages and prices of necessaries, 13637–13643——The whole condition of the country is more prosperous than in 1824, 13644——No diminution of capital embarked in the cultivation of land, 13646, 13647——A great deal of new land is being brought into cultivation in Aberdeenshire, 13650, 13651——Gross produce in the three counties has increased since 1824 and since 1830, 13652–13656——Restrictions on malting are more felt than the amount of duty, but if they were taken off, it might tend to the illicit distillation of whisky, 13657–13661——Condition of landlords is better, produce has increased, which has tended to keep up rental, 13663–13668.

Effect of seasons on produce in 1828–1831, 13669, 13670——Cattle were formerly sent to Leicestershire in a lean state, but they are now fattened and sent to London direct by means of steam navigation, 13672–13674——When the Scotch farmers found wheat did not pay, they altered their system of cultivation, 13677–13680——There was more money made during the war; but there are fewer adventurers now, and things are in a more healthy state, 13684–13688——Scotch farmers do not wish to change their one-pound notes for the English system, 13689–13696——Extent to which dry springs are an advantage, 13697–13702——Prices being remunerative, depends upon the rotation of the different crops and not upon wheat alone, 13703–13710——Price of produce partly regulated by the demand of the manufacturing and commercial classes, which are now prosperous, 13711–13715.

Effect of price of corn and demand for labour on wages, 13717–13721——Farmers have less money capital than they had twenty years ago, but more stock, 13722–13725——Farmers would rather have their present prospects than return to a similar artificial state to that which took place during the war, 13726–13730——They prefer their present prices and prospects to any alteration of the currency, 13731–13737——Size of farms various; they are let on lease, and landlords in some instances allow for improvements made during the term, 13738–13742——There is no more want of money in England than in Scotland; sovereigns are not used for commercial purposes in Scotland, 13743–13748——Farmers' profits, though moderate, are established upon a firm basis, 13749–13752.

Description of soil and rotation of crops according to a thirteen-year rotation, 13753–13758——Description of an eleven-year rotation, 13759——State of the expenditure and produce of a farm of 253 imperial acres on Kincardineshire coast-side or clay district, with particulars as to the soil and locality, 13760, *III. p.* 226–232——Lean cattle used formerly to be sent to England, but the introduction of bone manure and grass husbandry causes them now to be fattened, 13761–13764——Advantage of corn-rents, particularly with a maximum, 13765–13768——Fattening cattle causes more manure, and a consequent increase of produce, 13769, 13770——Agricultural produce must keep up, if manufactures continue prosperous; price of one kind of produce does not govern another, 13771–13773.

Price of produce nearly the same in England as Scotland, although the circulating medium is different, 13774–13776——A fixed duty might be tampered with, from the report of a bad crop causing the pressure from without to influence the legislature, 13779–13782——Mode of regulating the corn-rents according to the fiars, and amount of the maximum, 13783–13789——Mode of striking the fiars in Forfarshire and Kincardineshire, 13790–13796——Particulars as to the mode adopted of feeding cattle on grass land, and the period the land is kept in grass, 13797–13810——Nature of the five-course shift, 13810, 13811——English farmers crop their land too hard; they do not embrace a sufficient grass course, or feeding of cattle with sheep, 13812–13819——Manner in which the rot in England might be prevented by grazing the permanent grass land with cattle, and removing the sheep to the convertible grass land, 13819–13823——Miscellaneous notes on labour, rotations, rent, produce, &c., 13826.

Rolfe, John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Farmer at Beaconsfield, Bucks, 1338, 1339——Distress of tenanty in Bucks from low price of wheat, 1347, 1348——Agriculture has gone back within the last ten years from the same cause, 1349–1351——Farmers thrash out as soon after harvest as possible, from want of money, 1353–1355——Not more labour employed than absolutely necessary, 1357——As much wheat grown on heavy and light lands as there used to be, 1361–1364——Large and small farmers both feel the present distress, 1367–1371——Reduction has taken place in rents latterly, 1372–1380——Condition of farms going down where the sheep stock has been lost, 1384–1387

Rents have been paid out of capital or stock, and where there has been nothing but produce to pay, the land has gone out of condition, and the rent is in arrear, 1388–1390——Farming tradesmen are paid better in proportion to the price of produce than they ever were, 1392, 1393——Clay lands will not bear a rent at present prices, 1398——Grazing farmers better off within the last two years than the corn grower, 1403——Low price of corn attributed to foreign importations in former years, and to full average crops during the last two or three years, 1406.

Imports of Irish corn injures the English farmer, 1409——System of poor laws in Ireland would benefit the English farmer, 1411——Repeal of the malt tax would be a great relief, 1412——Extent of benefit per acre the unrestricted use of barley would be to farmers, 1412–1417——The grown wheat of the last harvest but one has been used for horses and pigs, 1418——Estimate of the expense of cultivating an acre of arable land in Beaconsfield for four years, upon the four-course system; estimate of amount of produce

Rolfe, John. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

at present prices, and at prices that would be remunerating, 1422, *p.* 80, 81——Quantity of wheat consumed by labourers per week, showing that 3*d.* per week extra to the consumer makes the difference between a fair rent to the landlord and remuneration to the tenant, or ruin to both, 1422–1442——Condition of labourers very good; Poor Law Bill will make them look more to their own exertions, 1444–1447——Reduction of rates at Beaconsfield in consequence of the Poor Law Bill, 1448–1450——Proportion the price of barley should bear to that of wheat, 1451–1456——Price of Irish oats; they are kiln-dried, 1461–1465——Produce of wheat has been greater in the last two or three years than previously, 1466–1469——Commutation of tithe would be advantageous from being permanent, 1478–1486.

If prices remain as they are, light soils will go out of cultivation, 1490–1497——Complaints by tradesmen of landlords being paid, and their bills left unpaid, 1498–1501——If prices higher, labourer would be better off with constant employment, though he might not get higher wages, 1502–1507——Prices of barley and oats are higher than they would have been, in consequence of scarce seasons, 1508–1513——Price of mutton is higher in consequence of the rot some years ago; it is also affected by the failure of the turnip crop last year, consequently high prices do not benefit those farmers who have used artificial food, 1514–1523.

Barley crops affected by dry springs, 1524–1534——Value of turnip crops per acre, 1535–1537——Poor-rates fell before the Poor Law Bill in consequence of bread having fallen, 1538–1540——Increased importation of Irish oats, 1541–1549——Fall in prices partly attributed to foreign importation causing large stocks in the hands of corn-dealers, and consequent want of speculation, 1550–1569——Proposition for taking foreign corn out of bond and replacing it with British would show a state of things unfavourable to foreign corn-merchants, 1570–1572——Unrestricted use of barley would be an advantage of 15*d.* per acre, 1575–1577——Cattle have been killed through eating inferior wheat, 1578–1581.

Loss of one pound per acre on arable land for four years, 1585–1589——Poor laws in Ireland would cause a rise in the price of produce in the English market, 1592–1595——Rioting had the effect of keeping up wages a little, 1596–1598——Surplus labour employed on railroads, 1601-1603——Condition of labourers was better during high prices from employment being more constant, 1604–1615——There has been a continued depression, a loss of capital and ruin to farmers since 1833, 1616–1622——During the war farmers could realize property, 1623–1627——Repeal of assessed taxes on horses and servants would cause a greater consumption of agricultural produce, 1629——Alterations in the corn laws by more easily admitting foreign corn have tended to reduce prices, 1632–1651——One-half the tenantry in witness's district hold their farms at the mercy of their landlords, 1652–1655——Reduction of the whole rent would not be equal to the fall in prices, 1656, 1657——Farmers who have withdrawn their capital from farming have, in some instances, lost it in speculations with which they were not acquainted, 1662–1671.

Growth of barley would be increased, and a different description used, if it were not for the malt tax, 1672–1676——Relief from the removal of the malt tax, 1680, 1681——And the assessed taxes, 1682–1689——Rate of cottage rents, 1692–1700——Further evidence as to the protection that poor laws in Ireland would be to the English farmer, 1701–1707——The cost of importing being 60 per cent. upon the capital invested, is not a sufficient protection to the English farmer, 1708–1712——Farms in Buckinghamshire that have been thrown out of cultivation, although great reductions of rent have been offered, 1713–1731——Amount gained by abolition of malt tax would not be added to rent, 1732–1734——If foreign barley imported as the consideration of the repeal of malt tax, there would be no benefit unless the foreign barley were not fit for malting, 1735——A property tax would be a better equivalent, 1736–1738——Grounds for supposing the repeal of malt tax would increase the price of barley, 1739——Removal of the beer duty has increased the price of barley, 1740–1743.

Romney Marsh. Great devastation there among the flocks in 1825, *Houghton* 748.

Roofs. Roofs of farm buildings are covered with tiles, in East Lothian, *Howden* 9995.

Rooks. Farmers of Ayr suggest that rookeries should be placed on such a footing as not to be hurtful to the surrounding country; manner in which the crows injure the corn, *Brown* 12224–12227.

Roundsmen. The system kept men in employment, but increased rates, *Houghton* 864.

Rot:

1. *Extent of the Rot, and how far recovered from.*
2. *Advantages to Farmers on those Farms not visited with it.*

1. *Extent of the Rot, and how far recovered from.*

Rot among sheep is chiefly upon cold clay grass land, *Calthrop* 8803——Extent of loss by rot in 1828, 1829, in Bedfordshire, *Bennett* 8242–8245——Loss by the rot, 1829–1831, *Umbers* 8620–8625——Loss in Somerville Aston by the rot, *Crowther* 12861–12875——The rot did not take place in the convertible soils in Bedford, *Bennett* 8330–8332——Extent of the rot in Sussex, *Boniface* 13199–13206——The rot much more prevalent on lands at the foot of the downs than any other part of the country, *Ellman*

Rot:—1. *Extent of the Rot, and how far recovered from*—continued.

Ellman 4530–4535, 4541——The calculation that one-fourth of the sheep of the kingdom were destroyed by the rot is nearly correct, *Boniface* 13249–13252——Manner in which the rot in England might be prevented by grazing the permanent grass land with cattle, and removing the sheep to the convertible grass land, *Robertson* 13819–13823——Rot has not been recovered from; farmers have not replaced their stock, *Cortis* 1785, 1786, 1890; *Smallpiece* 2487–3056, 3063, 3064; *Bowyer* 3541–3543; *David* 4292–4294, 4435; *Umbers* 8480; *Bickerton* 8827–8831——The flocks lost by the rot have been replaced, *Fison* 12729–12731——Breeding flocks are beginning to recover the effects of the rot, *Crowther* 13006——In Leicestershire the rot has just been recovered, *Ellis* 10792–10794.

2. *Advantages to those Farmers on Farms not visited with it.*

The rot in England did not affect the price of sheep in Scotland, *Hope* 9823–9831; *Oliphant* 11189–11194——Advantage to witness from the rot in sheep in England, *Howden* 10088–10096——The rot increased the price of sheep and benefited those farmers with drained lands, *Ellis* 10784–10791——The rot in England was a benefit to the farms in Berwickshire not visited with that calamity, *Bell* 11935–11946——Tendency of the rot to make sheep in the upland soils valuable; probable deficiency of sheep next year, *Stares* 11694–11706——Rot in England was an advantage to, in causing a rise in price, *Brown* 12324–12326, 12333.

See also *Beef. Clay Lands*, 1, 8. *Farmers*, 3. *Light Lands. Mutton. Rent*, 3. *Romney Marsh. Salt. Sheep. Upland Farms. Wool*, 2.

Rotterdam. Highest and lowest prices of wheat per imperial quarter in Rotterdam in the years 1829 to 1836 inclusive, *App. II.* 287——Prices of wheat and barley at Rotterdam during the years 1825 to 1835, *App. III. p.* 615.

Ruding, Rogers. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Corn-factor concerned in the import trade, 17075, 17076——Corn laws prevent a supply from abroad except in cases of actual scarcity, and do not maintain a steady price, 17077, 17078——At present the corn laws are in favour of a speculation in British corn, and a large profit would be realized before it came into competition with foreign corn, 17079–17083——Great quantity of foreign corn entered for home consumption, 1828–1831, some at 1*s.* and some at 2*s.* 8*d.* duty, 17084–17086——The corn laws do afford the farmer sufficient protection; the importation has never exceeded a month's consumption, 17087——Low prices are the effect of over production and not foreign importation, 17087–17089——Proposition for a duty of 10*s.* per quarter on foreign corn, varying according to the pivot price, 17090–17094, 17103–17108.

Objection to a fixed duty of 4*s.* or 5*s.*, particularly when wheat is high, 17095–17099——Under witness's plan the fluctuation would never be so great as under the present high averages and duties, 17100–17102——Evidence upon the profit to the importer under witness's plan, and manner he may save himself from loss by foreign importation, 17109–17118——Rate of freight, commission and other charges from the Baltic, 17119–17129——At how much less price corn may be kept in warehouse at Dantzic than here, 17130–17132, 17185——Particulars as to witness's plan of varying duties as applied to barley; price of English and foreign barley, 17133–17149——Opinion in favour of allowing foreign corn to be ground in bond, or in mills under bond, 17150–17157.

Further evidence in favour of witness's plan, which should be tried at the present time, there being no great stock of corn on the continent, 17160–17162——Supposed quantity of corn in the Baltic warehouses and bonded in England, 17163–17169, 17180–17184——There is about the usual quantity of corn in the hands of farmers at present, 17170–17172——Extent to which the crop of 1834 was above an average, 17172, 17173——Increased consumption of corn in the last two or three years, 17174–17176——Quantity of wheat remaining in the country beyond the consumption to the usual period of harvest, 17177–17179——Further evidence in favour of witness's plan, and in what cases it would discourage the purchase of British corn, 17186-17193——For the last two or three years England has grown sufficient for its consumption, 17194.

Scarcely any English flour used on ships going long voyages; they use bonded flour, 17195–17203——Crop of 1834 was very fine on the continent, 17204——Present quantity in foreign warehouses is about the average, 17205——Examination upon the present corn laws, and how far they promote a speculation in home rather than in foreign corn, 17208–17226——Further evidence against a duty of 6*s.* or 7*s.* on foreign corn, 17228–17235——Prices of foreign barley; imports since 1828; quality and from whence the best comes, 17240–17245——Benefit of witness's plan to the consumer without hurting the farmer in the event of bad harvests, 17246–17253——Corn laws have caused foreign corn land to be cultivated with seeds and other produce, which may cause a short supply in the event of a bad harvest here, 17254–17256——British agriculturist should be protected, but not at the expense of the community at large, who should also be protected by giving some encouragement to foreign agriculture, 17257–17266——A fixed duty of 10*s.* or 15*s.* could not be enforced, 17267–17274——Rise of price lately has

Ruding, Rogers. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

has been in anticipation of a bad harvest, 17277, 17278——Extent to which orders have been sent out for foreign corn in consequence, 17279–17281——How far the increased growth and improved quality to be attributed to the present system, 17282–17285——Imports from the Baltic since 1791, 17288–17293.

Rundale. Mode of letting in Cork by the system of Rundale; course of crops and ruinous nature of the system, *Brassington* 14656–14663.

Russia. State of circulation in Russia, and prosperity of that country, *Burgess* 16045–16051——Opinion of the Russian government that it would be a greater injustice to return to the old standard than to sanction the depreciation by law, Lord *Ashburton* 17583——Keeping out the depreciated paper in Russia has been the cause of less injustice than altering the metallic standard would have been, Lord *Ashburton* 17677–17686——Opinion upon the expediency of returning to cash payments in Russia was given without taking into consideration the political circumstances affecting the state of vassalage, Lord *Ashburton* 17768.

Rye. The consumption of rye increases in the north of Europe, but that of wheat does not, *Jacob* 205.

See also *Averages*, 2.

Rye Straw. Profit attaching thereto; there is a great demand for it; purposes for which applied, *Houghton* 835, 836.

S.

Salaries. See *Taxation*, 2.

Sales of Corn. Quantity of wheat sold is no criterion of consumption or growth, *Jacob* 23–25.

Salt. Is a great preservative against the rot in sheep, *Houghton* 1284, 1285.

Sanders, Joseph. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Imports of corn from Ireland during the last year is less than an average of the preceding seven or eight years, 5996–5999——Quality of Irish wheat not so good within the last two years from wet seasons, 6000–6002——Import of flour from Ireland has increased nearly eighteen-fold since 1825; it comes now in sufficiently good condition to compete with English flour, 6004–6005——Although the import of wheat from Ireland has not increased, the growth has been greater, and the consumption extended by the distillers and the population, 6008–6012——Irish labour is not so valuable as the English, from the low living of the Irish, 6014–6015——Cost of production in Ireland is lower than in England, 6016——Rents are very high; the majority of farmers are little better than serfs, 6018——Harvests of 1833–1835 have been from ten to twenty per cent. above an average, 6024, 6025——Wheat has been heavier from two to three pounds a bushel, 6026——Capabilities of producing flour are increased in a greater proportion, 6027——The three last crops have caused wheat to fall 8*s.* or 10*s.* per quarter lower than expected in 1833, 6029.

Stock of corn in the hands of dealers has been less than usual during the last two or three years; that in the hands of farmers is larger than usual, 6030–6032——Price of wheat must rise; the first effect of a fall is to cause more wheat to be sown, but after that course has been pursued a year or two, the opposite extreme is fallen into, 6033, 6034——Improvement of a certain district in Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, and Leicestershire has continued, 6035——Great falling off in the growth of wheat this year in Ireland, 6037——Extended growth of wheat in certain parts of Lincolnshire, without an equally increased demand, 6038–6040——Clay lands must go out of wheat tillage, unless some cheaper mode of cultivating them is discovered, 6041, 6042——Fixed duty will not regulate the importation of corn on a better principle, 6045——Increased speculation in English corn, within the last nine months, is from a feeling that the present low prices cannot continue, 6046–6049——Quantity of foreign corn in bond, 6050——Principle of the proposition for allowing the grinding of English or Irish corn, and bonding it for exportation under debenture; advantage of the plan, 6050–6060.

Corn returns, on which the averages are framed, are in the main correct, 6061–6063——Cause of the diminution in the return of corn at Liverpool in 1834 over 1829, and increase in other markets, 6064–6066——Capital invested in the improvement of land in Ireland some years ago is now beginning to tell upon the produce of the soil, 6067——The best relief to the farmer is high prices, 6068——Not in the power of the legislature to grant relief, 6069——Nothing in the state of the currency to cause low price of wheat, 6070——Or to cause a higher price of other articles sold at Liverpool as compared with wheat, 6071——Joint stock banks accommodate manufacturers; the operations of the farmer are on too small a scale to be worthy their attention, 6072–6074.

751

Sanders, Joseph. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

Extent to which joint stock banks have encouraged speculation, and caused a rise in prices in the manufacturing districts, 6075–6079——Improper manner in which business is conducted by the joint stock banks, particularly as regards their system of discounts, commissions and advances on opening new accounts; inconvenience a suspension of payment would cause to commerce, though the majority of them may eventually be solvent, 6080–6098——The five-pound note tender clause makes them more careless in their mode of transacting business, but in the event of a panic would have a beneficial and mitigating effect, 6099–6102.

Very little speculation in wheat up to nine months ago, 6103–6105——How far the crops of 1833–1835, being above an average in quantity and quality, will account for the depression in the price of wheat, 6106–6112——Comparative taxes paid by farmers in England and Ireland, 6113–6120——Land of England is producing more produce than it ever produced at any period, 6121——Good lands are improving in cultivation, 6122——Inferior lands are falling off, they must go to grass and be cultivated at the least possible expense, 6122, 6123——Expense of cultivation is diminishing but very slowly, 6124——Agriculturists, since 1814, have always declared they could not grow wheat for less than from 15*s.* to 20*s.* a quarter higher than is proved they could grow it for; in a little time it may be grown under 50*s.*, and more grown than ever, 6125.

More wheat produced within the last three years than in any other three years, 6126——Since 1819 there has been only three years of importation, which, with an immense increase of population, proves an extraordinary increase in the produce of agriculture, 6127——No alteration of the currency, with a view to raising prices, would be of the slightest advantage to agriculture, considered abstractedly from all other interests, 6128–6133——Effect of Sir Robert Peel's Bill in 1819, and Lord Castlereagh's issue of notes in 1822, on prices, 6134–6186——Further evidence upon increased production since 1819, and its effect on reducing prices, 6187–6191——Taxes taken off since 1814 have diminished the cost of growing wheat, 6193–6196.

On the best soils of Norfolk, Suffolk, Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire, wheat could be grown under 50*s.*; impracticable clays must go out of cultivation, 6197–6203——Disastrous effects on commerce upon the congress of the allied sovereigns decreeing, in the autumn of 1818, that the allied troops should leave France, and which took place before Mr. Peel's Bill was named, 6204——There was nothing definite fixed relative to that bill till the spring of 1819, after a state of previous suffering totally independent of it, 6205–6211——Extent to which the struggle between the Bank of England and the joint stock banks of Lancashire has caused the latter to reduce the issue of notes, 6212–6216——Speculation in railways attributed to the success of the Liverpool and Manchester one, and to the public mind being more alive to the value of railways, 6217——Payment of West India claims has caused a greater plenty of money in the market, 6218——The low rate of profit in ordinary pursuits causes extraordinary speculation; there will be another panic unless some restraint is placed on the joint stock banks, 6219–6225——A silver standard might be a temporary security in the event of another panic, but there are objections to a double standard, 6226–6237.

Present prices cannot continue, as wheat cannot be produced at those prices; reduction will go on in the cost of production, 6238–6242——Returns are made more accurately since 1828; error in the return from Liverpool in 1825, 6243–6248——Failure of a scheme of certain corn speculators to return the high-priced corn so as to enhance the average and reduce the duty, 6249–6253——With regard to the measure of 1819, it was impossible to return from an inconvertible paper currency to a convertible one without some restraint on commerce, 6254–6257——If the bill of 1819 has any effect on joint stock banking, it is to throw impediments in the way of too extensive a circulation, 6258–6260——The loss of the monopoly enjoyed during the war by Great Britain, and the restoration of manufacturing industry in other countries by the peace, led to a considerable depression of prices, 6261–6263——Effect of importations of foreign corn on depressing the price of British corn, 6264–6267.

Nothing in the state of the currency now that affects agriculturists, unless those under engagements contracted before 1819, 6268, 6269——Withdrawal of one-pound notes produced a derangement of accommodation by persons under engagements, which was not taken into account when those engagements entered into, 7269, 6270——Other produce has not fallen so low as corn; the cause of the low price of that is excessive quantity, 6271, 6272——If paper still remained inconvertible, there would be causes that would make the worst clay soils unprofitable; imports of corn and flour from Ireland have affected those lands; those clay lands would never have maintained half the present population, 6273-6275——Improvements in agricultural skill; employment of light land in the production of wheat; less expense of that cultivation tends to diminish the profit on clay soils, 6276–6279.

Bringing clay farmers to speak of the distress of agriculture, is making out an *ex-parte* case; farmers of light lands, who are prosperous, will give a different account, but will not volunteer their evidence for fear of having their rents increased, 6280–6284——Poor Law Bill has diminished the charges of the farmer, 6285, 6286——Application of skill and ingenuity in Scotland, and the north of England, reduces the cost of produce, 6287, 6288——Owners of clay lands are poor landlords, who necessarily have poor tenants,

Sanders, Joseph. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

6289——It would be useless to attempt to make the cultivation of bad clay land profitable, 6290–6292——The state of speculation and the state of crops, on account of seasons, affect the price of wheat much more than any action on the currency, 6293, 6294——Greater production of wheat in the last three years than ever known, and considerable improvements in agriculture in some parts, 6295——More wheaten flour eaten now than ever, and more potatoes, to the diminution of other vegetables, 6296——Stock in the hands of farmers larger than ever, from the extent of the crops, 6297——A very undue breadth of wheat sown in the last three years from the poverty of the farmers, partly occasioned by the rot in sheep and the necessity of ploughing up the land, 6298——Present state of the currency has no connexion with the low price of wheat, 6299, 6300——Alteration of the currency, or standard, would not be the slightest advantage to the agricultural interest, 6301——Prices would have fallen after 1819, if the measure of that year had not passed, 6302.

Effect of the declaration of 1822 in increasing the currency, which was followed by the bubble year of 1825, and the panic consequent upon it, 6303–6306——The serious consequences that would follow an inconvertible paper currency are so well known, that no minister of the present day would propose such a measure, 6307——There would be equal objection from a silver standard now, after the suppression of one-pound notes, that there was to that measure previous to its passing, 6308–6310——Effect of the fertility of the soil in Ireland, and low wages there on increasing growth of wheat, and price of corn in England, 6311–6313——Cost of protection afforded by the corn laws is met by national advantages scarcely possible to estimate in money, 6314-6316——Protection given to corn is not materially greater than that given to other staple commodities, 6317——Advantage that would be derived by having a statistical account of the quantity of wheat, barley and oats sown in each parish in England, annually supplied to Government, 6318–6319——Present corn law has been productive of a steady and moderate price, 6320.

(Second Examination.)—There is a prospect of amendment, as regards the condition of agriculture, 6681–6683——Doubts as to whether any rent could be paid on the worst description of land, 6684–6687——Average produce per acre of the kingdom greatly under-stated, 6688, 6689——The Act of 1819 acts with greater severity on land than on manufactures, from its progress down being slow and lingering, 6690, 6691——Comparison between the standard of gold in 1797 and at present; its effect on the price of wheat; alterations in the currency at different periods since 1797; and whether a silver standard would be better than a gold standard, 6692–6718——Growth of wheat would not be very materially contracted if the average price did not exceed 50*s.*, 6719——Average produce of the kingdom per acre, 6720, 6721——Banking system in Ireland tends to obtain high rents for landlords and to keep up prices, 6722–6726.

One-pound notes are a convenience and facility to Scotland; their withdrawal would produce similar inconvenience there as took place here, but in time prices would be exactly what they are now, 6727–6729——Clay lands may be improved with capital, but at 5*s.* per bushel must go out of cultivation of wheat, 6730–6732——Extent of the import of foreign corn in 1806–1813, and prices of corn; impediments from war prevented a larger importation; but for increased cultivation at home, manufacturers would have been starved, 6733–6748——Repeal of the malt tax would be beneficial to the landowner and occupier, 6754–6756——Condition of farmers on bad lands worse than in 1822, 6750——They are worse off than they were in 1833; those on good soils are not so badly off, 6757–6767——Large stock of corn in the hands of farmers in the inland counties, 6772–6775.

Farmers in Lancashire complain less of the importation of wheat from Ireland than they do of the import of poultry, eggs, and such description of agricultural produce, 6781, 6782——Considerable change in the occupants of land in the last ten years, 6783–6787——Farmers in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire complain of distress from low prices, 6796, 6797——Taxes which press immediately on the occupier, 6798, 6799——Permitting farmers to malt their own barley would be a relief, but there is a great doubt whether it could be done with safety to the revenue, 6803–6806, 6812–6818——Injury to English growers from malt from Ireland being smuggled into England, 6806-6811——Reducing the duty one-half would tend materially to stop it, 6819——And would cause a greater use of malt instead of raw grain by brewers and distillers, and so prevent a great loss to the revenue by the production, 6824–6826.

Manner in which the duty is evaded in Ireland, 6821——The certificate system ought to exist in Ireland, 6823——Recent period within which certain land near Boston has been brought under cultivation of wheat, 6828, 6829——Clay lands producing from twenty to twenty-four bushels per acre, cannot be cultivated with wheat under 50*s.* 6830–6833——Average per acre of the kingdom, 6834–6837——Average of the lands at Boston and Spalding, which is far above the average quality, 6835, 6836——Land producing twenty bushels per acre need not be thrown out of cultivation of wheat, if rents are lower and there is fresh capital laid out on them in draining and manuring, which would increase the produce, 6838–6844.

Reduction of bank issues might tend to depress prices, though there was as much issued as there was a demand for, 6845–6847——Imports of corn in 1817–1819 did not affect the stock of bullion during the first year of import; effect of import in 1829, on bullion in 1829, 6848–6851——Increased production on the good lands would counterbalance the loss on the bad lands thrown out of cultivation, 6852, 6853——Extent that foreign

Sanders, Joseph. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

labour would be substituted for British, in the event of lands being out of cultivation and deficient harvests supplied by foreign imports, 6854–6858——Amount of paid-up capital ought to be increased, as a means of preventing a derangement of commerce by the joint stock banking companies, 6860–6862——Statements brought forward to show agricultural distress generally contain some mis-statement or fallacy, 6871–6875——Causes of the difference in price of other agricultural produce and wheat, 6876–6887——Nature of Mr. Hodgson's plan for surveying crops, to ascertain the produce per acre through the kingdom, 6888–6892——It will take many years to turn cold clay lands to grass, without capital being laid out upon them, 6896–6898——Nature of the crop will always be indicated by the supply at market, 6899–6908.

Further evidence on the effect of Mr. Peel's Bill of 1819; prices would in the course of time have been as low as they are now if that bill had never passed, 6911–6923——Crops from 1822–1828 were rather short, 6927——Mr. Jacob's opinions, connected with corn and the foreign corn trade, not to be relied on, 6928——Joint stock banks are a convenience, but are liable to abuse, 6929——Commercial distress of 1819 arose from political causes; that distress was mitigated in 1820, 6932, 6933——If there were a recurrence of that distress, there might again be a scarcity of money and demand of gold from abroad, 6934——Further evidence against a silver standard, 6936–6939——Competition between good and bad lands acting unfavourably to the latter, cannot be avoided, 6940–6943——Corn returns are substantially correct, the errors in them balance themselves, 6944–6946——Price at which wheat can be grown must depend on local situation and many other considerations, 6948.

Large tracts of land in Ireland on which wheat can be grown at 50*s.*, which will be formidable, as agricultural skill applied to them, under the present corn laws, 6949, 6950——If the present corn laws maintained and Irish production extended, the increased produce of the British Isles will keep pace with the population, and supply the demand at a steady and moderate price, 6951——Fixed duty impossible to be maintained with wheat at 80*s.*, 6952; principle of the vanishing scale of duties is almost invaluable, 6953, 6954——If the ports always open at a fixed duty of 8*s.*, foreigners would supply this country at about 36*s.* or 38*s.*, which would ruin the agricultural and milling interests of Ireland, 6954–6957——Introduction of poor laws into Ireland would not affect the agricultural or manufacturing interests of England; the relief would be given in potatoes, which can be grown in an unlimited quantity, and would not decrease the amount of Irish exports or the growth of wheat, 6959–6962——Penalties on buyer and seller, as to making returns, should be made effectual, 6963–6969——Further evidence in favour of parochial returns of corn cultivation in each parish, and which also might be obtained from Ireland, 6971–6976.

Returns of sales should be made but once; whether it would be advantageous that the grower should make them, 6977–6981——Return of the quantity of flour ground by millers would be useful, but would not be an accurate test of consumption, 6982–6984——Export of corn from Scotland has increased and is increasing, 6985–6987——Culture of Scotland improving; evidence might be obtained from thence that would surprise some of the clay farmers of England, 6988——Manner in which steam conveyance has increased the imports into Liverpool from Scotland, causing a competition with the Scotch as well as Irish farmer, and showing that the effect of steam is greater than the action of the currency, 6989–6995——Cause of the decline in the imports of wheat from Ireland in the last two years, and how far it affects prices, 6996–7003——There is an increase of produce to meet addition of population, 7004–7006——Further evidence as to the best means of ascertaining the acreage of wheat now and ten or fifteen years ago, 7007–7012——Advantage to Ireland of steam navigation; rise of prices in consequence, 7013–7017——Improved cultivation in Ireland and in England will bring the price of corn nearer 40*s.* than 50*s.*, but in the meantime prices will rise, 7018–7021.

Farmers advocate a fixed duty, which must proceed from a want of knowledge of their own interest, 7022, 7023——Tenants on witness's farm in Leicestershire pay their rents punctually, and make no complaint, 7024–7030——Unreasonable to expect land which is unimproved to compete with that on which large sums have been laid out, 7031–7033——Advantage to the landed interest of an exportation of flour under debenture, but which would be inoperative under a fixed duty, 7034–7038——Further evidence upon the growth of wheat or barley, according to the prices, 7039–7042——Further evidence upon the new lands superseding the old, 7043–7046——Further evidence against a silver standard and inconvertible paper; there would be no security for the value or possession of property, 7048–7080——If the price of Irish wheat rose 10*s.* or 15*s.* a quarter, the home consumption of it would cease, 7081——Quantity of wheat in the hands of millers and corn-dealers in the south of Ireland is considerable, 7083–7085.

Banking system of Ireland has improved, although it is too much extended now, 7087–7089——Increased circulation is not necessary for increased population; the increase of trade, manufactures and population is the effect of increased wealth, 7090–7098——Extent of revenue to the country from the use of notes; the sum paid by the country for the use of gold is for the security of property in a fixed standard, and is very wisely laid out, 7099, 7100——The failures in the East Indies and of old establishments in London, of late years, have been from their not having reduced their establishments to meet the change from war prices, 7101——Upon changing the currency in 1819, the rise in the price of precious metals was not sufficiently taken into account, 7103——Money is dangerously

Sanders, Joseph. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

gerously cheap now, 7104——Among those who purchased in 1812–1814, and persons having land fixed with hereditary charges, there have been cases of absolute and irretrievable ruin, 7105——It is better that those cases of hardship should exist than that fresh injustice should be done by a return to a depreciated currency, 7106–7113——Stockholders and capitalists who were not debtors gained by the measure of 1819; all debtors were losers by it, 7114–7120——Opinion as to the period when the gold standard and measure of 1819 actually came into full effect, 7121–7128——The effect of extending the gold standard to Scotland and Ireland would be hardly distinguishable on prices, 7129, 7130——It will be found in the next two years there is not so much gold in the country as is desirable, it having been forced out by the joint stock banks, 7131——Desirable to have a mixed circulation of paper and gold, 7131——The British demand for precious metals had the effect of increasing their value, 7132, 7133.

If Ireland obtained seeds from Pomerania, Silesia and Poland, the value of her agricultural products would be increased many millions, and she would be better able to meet a fixed duty of 8*s.* should that measure be resorted to, 7134–7136——Difficulty of employing the labour that would be thrown out by the clay lands ceasing to cultivate wheat, 7137–7141——Insecurity to property and Government, if all the interests of the country are made subordinate to the manufacturing interest; to be dependent upon a foreign supply for corn with a fixed duty of 8*s.*, 7142–7145——The measure of Mr. Canning's Government of admitting foreign corn in bond into consumption, at a low duty, in 1826, was not justified by the circumstances, but was a yielding to popular commotion, 7146–7251——It is utterly impossible to maintain a paper currency to raise prices, 7152.

(Third Examination.)—Corrected statement of the imports of wheat, rye, barley and oats, 1826–1813, 7155–7158——Rate at which foreign corn can be laid down in England, 7159——Concurrence in the opinions expressed in Matthus's "Political Economy" as to the effect of restrictions of importation in causing permanent improvements on land, and as to the increased proportion of manufacturing population with reference to the happiness and liberty of the country, 7159, 7160.

Sanders, Mr. *Joseph.* Letter from him on the corn laws, *App. III. p.* 555.

Santander. Rate of freight from Santander to England, *Sturge* 7245.

Savings' Banks. They are injurious, by withdrawing the circulating medium from the rural districts, *David* 4495——Advantageous to the country if the deposits of were placed with local joint stock banks, *David* 4497.

Sayer, Mr. See *Land Tax.*

Scarcity. See *Fixed Duty,* 6.

Schoolmasters' Salaries, Scotland. Amount paid to schoolmaster in each parish in Scotland, *Brown* 12194.

Science. See *Agriculture. Fixed Duty.*

Scotch Agriculture. See *National Banks.*

Scotch Banking System. Farmers in Scotland could obtain the same accommodation from bankers there, even if there were no one-pound notes in circulation, *Langhorn* 7755——Advantages of the Scotch system of banking gives the Scotch over the English farmer in obtaining accommodation, *Burgess* 16086–16090——The present system of banking in Scotland aids the agriculturist, *Smith* 15249——Opinion that the banking system of Scotland first gave the stimulus to agriculture in Ayrshire, *Brown* 12264–12270——Seldom the Scotch banks are required to pay in gold, *Brown* 12319–12321——Until very lately in Scotland persons persisting in demands for gold at the banks would have been held in moral indignation, *Burgess* 16034–16038.

See also *Exchequer Bills. Scotch One-pound Notes.*

Scotch Cattle. Number of cattle fed in the winter, which are sent to Edinburgh, Glasgow and Morpeth, *Howden* 10042, 10043——Lean cattle formerly sent from Scotland to England have been superseded by sending fat cattle, from the facilities of steam navigation, *Walker* 10672–10679; *Robertson* 13672–13674——Lean cattle used formerly to be sent to England, but the introduction of bone manure and grass husbandry causes them now to be fattened, *Robertson* 13761–13764——Those sent from Ayrshire are mostly in a lean state, and are driven overland to Carlisle market, *Brown* 12236, 12244, 12245——Cattle sent to Morpeth market, and from thence conveyed into the manufacturing districts, *M'Dougal* 14566——Increased price of cattle in Aberdeen, *Walker* 10510——Increased consumption in the London market of fat stock has increased the price in Berwickshire, *Bell* 11926–11928.

See also *Cattle,* 3.

Scotch Clergy. See *Clergy.*

Scotch Corn. Importations of corn from Scotland are too small to considerably affect the averages, *Jacob* 60–64——Importation from Scotland into Liverpool has increased to a very small extent, *Scott* 5251–5255——Export of corn from Scotland has increased, and is increasing, *Sanders* 6985–6987.

See also *Steam Navigation.*

Scotch Farmers. See *Clover Seed*, 2. *Farmers*, 5.

Scotch Husbandry. Advantages of the Scotch plan of taking potatoes in the place of fallow, *Jacob* 58——Improvement therein is one of the causes of the low price of wheat, *Jacob* 94——Improvement in the cultivation of Scotland within thirty years, *Houghton* 1086–1088——The agriculture of Scotland was at a low ebb forty or fifty years ago, *Houghton* 1217——Application of skill and ingenuity in Scotland and the north of England reduces the cost of produce, *Sanders* 6287, 6288——Culture of Scotland improving; evidence might be obtained from thence that would surprise some of the clay farmers of England, *Sanders* 6988.

Scotch One-pound Notes. Advantages of one-pound notes to Scotland, *David* 4492, 4493; *Howden* 10176–10182; *Brodie* 10454–10466; *Walker* 10592–10594; *Oliphant* 11213–11215; *Bell* 11981–11988; *Brown* 12271–12277; *Church* 13467–13472; *Menzies* 14090–14095——Reason why they are safe for Scotland, but would not be in England, *Hope* 9871–9875; *Oliphant* 11195–11209——Advantage of the Scotch one-pound notes to the farmers; the same advantage would occur to the English farmers if the English banker could obtain the same exemption from paying their notes in gold, *Burgess* 16107, 16108——System of small notes in Scotland may work well from their limited extent, Lord *Ashburton* 17769, 17770——Inequality occasioned by the use of small notes in Scotland, but not in other parts of the empire, *David* 4492–4495——One-pound notes are a convenience and facility to Scotland; their withdrawal would produce similar inconvenience there as took place here, but in time prices would be exactly what they are now, *Sanders* 6727–6729——Effect of one-pound notes, particularly as regards Scotland; they would benefit England; bankers do not like them in case of a run, *Langhorn* 7733–7777——Scotland does not derive any benefit from the circulation of one-pound notes as regards increase of prices, *Langhorn* 8925–8927——They are more convenient than gold, and cheaper to those who issue them, *Hope* 9868–9870——Supposed effect in Scotland if the abolition of one-pound notes had been extended to it, *Brodie* 10470–10475——Abolition of one-pound notes would have been attended with considerable injury to Scotland, *Smith* 15250, 15251——Scotch farmers do not wish to change their one-pound notes for the English system, *Robertson* 13689–13696——Advantages of the Scotch one-pound notes; they do not keep up the prices of Scotland above the level of England, considering the free interchange of commodities between the two countries, *Menzies* 14090–14095.

See also *Rents*, 6. *Scotch Banking System.*

Scotch Produce. How far Scotch produce affects England; rents and wages are high in Scotland, *Hancock* 11467–11471.

See also *Steam Navigation.*

Scotland. The whole condition of the country is more prosperous than in 1824, *Robertson* 13644.

See also *Gold Standard. Growth of Wheat*, 6. *Landlords*, 4. *Land Tax. Poor Rates*, 3. *Potatoes*, 2.

Scott, James. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Corn-factor at Liverpool, 5046–5048——Supply of corn as regards the district of Liverpool has rather diminished during the last three years as compared with the three preceding, 5049–5051——Quantity of wheat and oats imported from Ireland to Liverpool has decreased during the last three years; an increase in the quantity of barley, flour and malt during the same period, 5052–5063——Want of speculation, scarcity of money among farmers, and an increased production the principal causes of the low price of wheat, 5064——Harvest of 1833 deficient in quantity and quality; that of 1834 a fair average crop, 5066–5072——Stock of corn in the hands of the farmers as moderate as in any of the three preceding years, 5073–5075——Prices of Hamburgh and Dantzic wheat; expenses of freight; its quality, 5076–5088——Quality of foreign barley; supply from abroad might be increased materially if there were no corn laws, 5089–5093——Quantity of flour consumed in the manufacturing districts amounts to nearly one-fourth of the Liverpool consumption, 5094–5103.

Stocks of farmers have been larger during the last seven years than they were in the seven years antecedent to 1827, 5105–5109——Generality of tenants compelled from the present low prices to force their corn earlier into the market than they would if prices higher, 5110–5112——State of the harvest from 1809-1835, 5115–5124——Greater proportion of good than bad harvests since 1809, 5125——Increased growth of wheat of late years, 5126–5128——Depression of the price of corn to be attributed to the want of money among farmers, 5128——Prosperity of the manufacturing interests not to be attributed solely to the establishment of joint stock banks; joint stock banks will advance money to the manufacturer, though not to the farmer, 5129–5144——Speculations in railways, joint stock banks, &c., have decreased, the value of wheat, 5145–5147——Impoverished

Scott, James. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

state of the farmers caused by a depression of prices; want of accommodation from bankers, owing to alteration in the currency, and absence of speculation, 5148–5155——Very little dependence to be placed in the statements made by the inspector of corn returns, from the inaccurate manner in which returns of sales are made, 5167–5179——Persons neglecting to make returns of quantity sold are subject to a penalty, 5180, 5181——Greater breadth of land being brought under wheat cultivation now than formerly; and improvements in husbandry will account for increased production, 5182–5187.

Greater quantity of land declining than improving in value, 5187–5189——Increased production not more than adequate to the increased population, 5190–5192——Further evidence respecting the inaccurate manner in which corn returns are made, 5193–5213——Importation of corn from Canada very much diminished, 5223–5231——Price of bread is too high for the price of corn, 5232–5235——Reason why it is not in the power of corn-factors to raise the averages now they are taken every six weeks, as when they were taken weekly, 5238, 5239, 5242–5250——Quality of wheat greatly improved, 5236, 5237——Liverpool market principally supplied with corn from Ireland and coastwise; very few farmers above ten miles from Liverpool send their corn to that market, 5240——Importation from Scotland into Liverpool has increased to a very small extent, 5251–5255 Present rise in the price of wheat to be attributed to speculation from the lowness of prices, 5260–5269——Considerable quantity of corn remaining in bond in Liverpool; average loss thereon per annum, 5270–5277, 5285——Further evidence respecting the causes which have led to less speculation in wheat than formerly, 5279–5281, 5294–5297——Less wheat being sown, and the consumption of it in feeding pigs and cattle, has tended to raise the price, 5298–5302——Average prices of wheat for the last five weeks at Liverpool, 5307–5315——Quantity of wheat in bonded warehouses at Liverpool in January last, 5316, 5317.

Seasons. Wet seasons of 1829, 1831 and 1832, and dry summers of 1833, 1834 and 1835, *Bowyer* 3546, 3547——Seasons have not been equally favourable to barley and oats as they have for wheat, *Parker* 12427——A succession of three dry seasons an unusual occurrence, *Bowyer* 3557, 3558——Furrow-draining will to a certain extent ameliorate the climate, *Oliphant* 11254——Effect of seasons on produce, 1828–1831, *Robertson* 13669, 13670——Statement of seasons and crops, 1815–1835; *Freeland* 14878–14880.

See also *Agricultural Distress*, 1. *Barley, I.* 2, *II. Clay Lands*, 3, 6. *Dry Seasons. Harvests. Potatoes. Price of Corn*, 6, 9, 11. *Produce of Corn. Speculations*, 2. *Spring of the Year. Wheat.*

Sea Weed. Is used on the coast-side of East Lothian as manure, with advantage, *Brodie* 10501, 10502.——Light soils have not been improved by means of sea weed manure, *Brown* 12165, 12166.

Seed Wheat. The practice of changing seed and buying seed wheat not so much acted on as it ought to be, *Houghton* 922–927, 1208–1212.

See also *Irish Corn*, 1.

Selkirk, Lord. Very great improvement on his estate since 1819, *Church* 13556, 13557.

Serfs. See *Farmers*, 4.

Servants. Reduction of assessed taxes on servants would not be of much service to farmers, *Sherborn* 4114——Effect of depreciating the currency on servants' wages, *Muntz* 16586–16589.

Seven Years' Course of Husbandry. Intention to change the farm at Truprain from six to a seven years' course, *Howden* 9998–10000.

Shaw, Edward Silvester. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Land agent at Kilglas, in the county of Kildare, occupying about 520 English acres, 14252–14254——Farmers in different counties in Ireland who have got out of tillage and keep stock are in a fair way of paying their rents; small farmers depending solely on agriculture are not, 14255, 14262, 14348——Quantity of land in Kildare in tillage and in grass on which cattle are fed, 14263, 14264——Course of husbandry on tillage farms, 14265——Average produce of oats per acre, 14266–14268——How often wheat sown; acreable produce, 14269–14272——Course of cropping, manure being only used for the potato crop, 14273–14276——Average rent of land, 14277.

Irregular manner in which the county cess is levied; rate per acre; it is founded on the Down Survey, 14278–14283——Small holdings of farmers in Cork; land very indifferent; but little grazing; course of cropping; produce principally oats; amount of rent; local burthens and condition of tenantry, 14284–14293——Farmers in Kildare better off than those in Cork, 14294——Number of years' purchase at which an estate of the late Mr. Bowes Daly sold, 14295–14297——Nature of the improvements that have taken place in Ireland of late years, 14298——Principle on which lands valued for letting in different counties, 14301–14304——Rent paid to Lord Ponsonby and state of his tenants in King's County, 14307–14309——Advantage to consolidate small farms, 14314–14316——Allowance by Lord Ponsonby for slated farm buildings, 14317–14319.

Shaw, Edward Silvester. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

Farm buildings in Kildare are comfortable, but are done without allowance from the landlord, 14320, 14321——Acreable produce of corn land is greater, but not the total amount, from there being less land in tillage, 14325, 14326——Crossing the breed of sheep with the Leicester has improved the wool; price of wool per stone, 14335–14339——Average stock per acre fed on certain lands, 14342–14344——Steam navigation a great advantage as regards sending cattle to England, 14345——Mode of reclaiming bog lands, 14352–14354——Amount per acre paid by Mr. Featherstone, which will not be repaid, 14355–14361——Red or high bogs when reclaimed may produce good crops, but do not pay the expense of the improvement, 14362–14366——Thirty-three shillings to thirty-six shillings per quarter, Liverpool weight, obtained for wheat, at which price tenants cannot pay their rents, 14367, 14368——Fifty-six shillings to sixty shillings would be remunerating, 14369.

Best mode of laying down land in grass; period at which it will be fit for sheep, and how long it will be before it is fit to feed cattle, 14370–14382——Rents at which Lord Trimlestown's land in King's County was let for thirteen years in con-acre, 14382, 14383——Tenants should be entitled to make three rents, 14384–14386——Proportion of stock to tillage on farms on Kildare, 14387, 14388——Expense per beast of sending stock from Dublin to Liverpool, 14390–14392, 14397–14405——The growth of barley is on the increase and the quality improving from mixing Scotch and English seeds; it might be grown to any extent, 14393–14396——Weight of wool per fleece; increased demand from England; it having borne a better price, has helped the grazing farmers through, 14409–14413——Price that stall-fed cattle ought to fetch to pay the expense of their keep, and which has not latterly been obtained, 14414–14421——Distressed tenants have ploughed up old grass lands; tenants in Ireland are generally allowed to do what they please with their land, 14422–12427.

Opinion that the quantity of store cattle exported from Ireland has not decreased, 14428–14436——Condition of farmers is gradually improving, but they are not in so independent a state, many holding under temporary abatements, 14437, 14438——Landlords have suffered from a depression of rents, having mortgages on their estates, but they have not pressed their tenants, 14439–14441——Farmers are as rich a body as ten or fifteen years ago; some of them, though rarely, have purchased estates, 14442–14444——Labourers are not better off or so well employed as twenty years ago, which want of employment began shortly after 1815; their distressed condition in 1821 and 1832, 14446–14454.

Cause of export of Irish produce to England during years of distress, 14455–14457——Fixed rents and low prices cause exports from Ireland, 14458–14461——Pigs and corn operate in inverse ratios; the higher the price of pigs the better for the Irish labourer, and the lower the price of corn, 14462–14473——The Reform Bill has not affected the labouring population, though it has the small farmers, 14474–14476——Rate of wages in Kildare, King's County and Cork, 14478, 14479——Tenants consider they may let in con-acre, except in cases of large farms, 14482–14487——Quantity of labour usually employed on farms, and proportion of labourers out of employment, and for what period of the year, 14488–14493——Cut bog does pay for cultivation; depth at which the original surface is first cut, 14494–14496——Incumbrances of landed proprietors; they are not in a situation to bear additional charges; the incumbrances arise from the law of primogeniture, 14497–14501.

Provincial banks will be disadvantageous to farmers, as their obtaining assistance from them will cause the landlords to look with greater suspicion on them, and not give them that time they now do, 14502–14507——The measure most conducive to the benefit of the tenantry will be a general drainage, 14508.

Sheep. Price of sheep stock has kept up within the last four years, in consequence of the previous rot, *Brickwell* 451–458——High prices do not benefit those farmers who have used artificial food for sheep, *Rolfe* 1514–1523——Failure of turnip crop, and sheep being fed on corn and cake, raised the price of meat, but which rise does not pay the farmer for the extra expense of feeding sheep, *Boniface* 13190–13193——Buying and selling price of sheep, *Crowther* 12876–12881, 13008–13010——Condition of farms going down where the sheep stock has been lost, *Rolfe* 1384–1387——Number kept on witness's farm at Denham, Bucks, *Morton* 3689——At Bedfont, Middlesex, *Sherborn* 4057–4060——At Harmondsworth, Middlesex, *Tillyer* 4197——At Shropshire, *Bickerton* 8702——A flock of sheep almost necessary to the farmer, though wheat used to be the paying crop, *Bennett* 8228–8236——The clay land farmers generally keep a flock of ewes, *Bennett* 8301, 8302——Description of stock kept by witness, *Church* 13487——Flocks of sheep have increased upon the best land, but have diminished in quantity, and are taken by agistment on the poor lands, *Cox* 14175–14178——Diminution of supply, and price of sheep in the west of England, and in Surrey, *Smallpiece* 2143–2848——Comparative stock of, in different counties before the rot, and since, *Smallpiece* 3030–3039; *Ellman* 4617–4637, 4743–4748——More sheep bred than formerly, and of a sufficient description, *Stares* 11546–11551——The wold farms are very valuable as breeding farms for sheep, *Atkinson* 5836, 5837——Number of sheep imported into Liverpool from Scotland in 1829 and 1835, *Sanders* 6990——Great demand for sheep in Liverpool; they have fetched a good price of late years, *Church* 13452, 13453——Scarcity of fat sheep this year, partly from the

Sheep:—continued.

the failure of the turnip crop, and partly from their being unsaleable last year, *Umbers* 8568, 6572——The cross of the Cheviot and the Leicester ram answers uncommonly well, *Church* 13492, 13493——Sheep husbandry has become more common, *Robertson* 13609, 13610——Not many sheep kept in Aberdeen, *Walker* 10561–10564——Great quantity of sheep kept in the higher parts of Ayrshire, *Brown* 12232, 12233——Interruption to the trade of breeding sheep in Ayrshire attributed to the scarcity of the turnip crop in England, *Brown* 12234, 12235, 12238.

See also *Agricultural Produce. Clay Lands*, 7, 8. *Lambs. Merino Sheep. Mutton. Profit and Loss. Rent*, 3. *Rot. Turnips. Wool.*

Sheep Farmers. They were in very great distress previous to 1828, owing to the low price of wool, *Ellman* 4638, 4676–4678.

Shelford, Village of. This place contains a small number of acres, and a large population; to what extent they can be employed, *Thurnall* 2363.

Sherborn, Francis. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Resides at Bedfont, 3990——Farms 1600 acres, 3992——Farmers generally not in so good a situation as some years ago, 4009——Attributed by low prices, 4010——Small farmers worse off than larger, their capital diminishing, 4014——State of agriculture in witness's neighbourhood worse than formerly, 4016, 4017——More wheat grown than formerly, 4020——Better price than other produce caused crops to be forced, 4022——But not a greater consumption, 4021——Wheat has been ground lately to fatten cattle, 4023——Farmers have as much stock of grain in hand now as at former periods, 4025–4027.

Advantages as to manure for farms in the neighbourhood of London, 4031——Farmers not so well able to pay their rents now as formerly, 4035——Principal cause of distress the low price of wheat, 4040——Sixty shillings a proper remunerating price for wheat, 4041——Reduction of taxes on horses would be relief to the farmer, 4043——Labourers can have more of the necessaries of life now than at any former period for the same money, 4052——Considerable benefit would be derived from permission to farmers to malt barley, 4053–4056——Great increased production of human food from increased weight of wheat, and consequently greater yield of flour, 4072–4076——Labourers have consumed more meat since the low prices, 4079.

Advantages to farmers if allowed to make their own malt, 4083——Value of land in the neighbourhood of London as compared with more distant districts, 4092–4112——Contract price of dung with the troops at Hyde Park barracks, 4096——Labourers consume better food now than formerly, 4113——No advantage to take off the duty on clover-seed, 4115——As much labour employed on farms now as formerly, 4117, 4118——No time when labourers could command more of the necessaries of life, 4120–4122 Average rate of wages 12*s.* per week, 4123——The result of witness's farming no criterion for the distress or prosperity of the rest of England, 4143.

Shipping Interest. The shipping interest would not be injured from placing a protecting duty of 4*s.* on flax and hemp, *Calthrop* 8057.

Ships. Scarcely any English flour used on ships going long voyages; they use bonded flour, *Ruding* 17195–17203——Mercantile marine are victualled with foreign corn, which is enabled to be done under a customs regulation, *Hayes* 17328–17338.

Shoes. Price of, not much reduced though the duty on leather is taken off, *Brickwell* 351.

Shopkeepers. Failure of, in rural districts, *Bickerton* 8906–8908——Shopkeepers who made large profits from the poor are affected by the Poor Law Bill, *Freeland* 14962–14966.

See also *Tradesmen.*

Shropshire. See *Beer.*

Silesian Barley. Quality of Silesian barley very fine, but it keeps badly on the voyage, *Hayes* 17362.

See also *Irish Corn*, 1.

Silesian Manufactures. The imposition of a duty on flax would give them a further advantage over us in foreign markets, *Calthrop* 8099, 8100.

Silver Standard:

1. *Advantages and disadvantages of a Silver Standard.*
2. *Whether a greater stock of Silver than Gold likely to be wanted.*
3. *Price of Silver, and whether it should be fixed.*
4. *Effect of a Silver Standard on money contracts and prices.*

1. *Advantages and disadvantages of a Silver Standard.*

Whether a silver standard would be better than a gold standard, *Sanders* 6692–6718——Silver a more desirable basis for circulation and standard of value than gold, *Calthrop* 8034, 8035; *Langhorn* 8998–9008; *Burgess* 16007–16009; *Muntz* 16468–16475; *Haggard* 16223, 16224, 16243–16255; Earl of *Radnor* 16755–16757, 16998; Lord *Ashburton* 17618–17620, 17627–17630, 17760——It should not be fixed, but should find its own

Silver Standard:—1. *Advantages and disadvantages of a Silver Standard*—continued.

own level, *Muntz* 16468–16475——Confidence of the bank with regard to their circulation, and security to the public if their issues based on a silver standard, *Calthrop* 7942–7948; *Haggard* 16243–16255, 16300–16313; Earl of *Radnor* 16755–16757; Lord *Ashburton* 17765–17767——It would give greater confidence to banking transactions, *Calthrop* 8083, 8084; *Burgess* 16203–16206; Lord *Ashburton* 17765–17767——A silver standard would have prevented the panic of 1825, *Calthrop* 8031–8033——It would have stopped its going as far as it did, *Langhorn* 8922–8924——A panic would be avoided by the bank having the power of paying either in gold or silver, *Langhorn* 8922–8924, 8961–8965——A silver standard might be a temporary security in the event of another panic, *Sanders* 6226–6237——In the event of a silver standard, gold might be allowed to circulate as a token for change under five pounds, Lord *Ashburton* 17745–17749——Silver is the standard of value in every country but this, *Haggard* 16286–16288; Earl of *Radnor* 16755–16757——There would be equal objection now from a silver standard, after the suppression of one-pound notes, that there was to that measure previous to its passing, *Sanders* 6308–6310——Further evidence against, and inconvertible paper; there would be no security for the value or possession of property, *Sanders* 6936–6939, 7048–7080——Advantage of a double standard, *Langhorn* 8922–8924—— A joint standard of silver would keep the paper more at a level, *Langhorn* 8943, 8944——There would be a difficulty in having a conjoint standard of silver and gold, *Calthrop* 8067, 8068——Objections to a double standard, *Sanders* 6226–6237.

2. *Whether a greater stock of Silver than Gold likely to be wanted.*

A similar stock of silver would not be required that there is of gold, *Haggard* 16260, 16261——Whether there is likely to be a difficulty in procuring silver, *Haggard* 16272–16274——More sources from which silver may be obtained than gold, *Haggard* 16275——There are opinions both ways, but the general expectation is that there will be an increased quantity of silver rather than an increased quantity of gold, Lord *Ashburton* 17742–17744——Dealings of the bank in silver and loss on one transaction, as mentioned in the Bank Report, *Haggard* 16262–16255.

3. *Price of Silver, and whether it should be fixed.*

Advantage of silver being made the standard of value with a proper seignorage, allowing gold to find its own level in the market, *Haggard* 16243–16255——Price of silver, *Haggard* 16276–16278——Effect that taking silver at the coinage price, with one-pound notes added, would have on prices, *Muntz* 16484——Effect of the relaxation of the standard price of silver by the law against melting, and the export of gold, *Muntz* 16485–16491——Taking silver at the mint price would be an injustice to the country; the object is a sounder system of banking, and not an intention of raising prices, *Calthrop* 7942–7948——Difficulty in fixing the price of silver, if made the standard, *Calthrop* 8079–8082——Silver should be issued at the rate of 66*s.* to the pound weight, which would be an advantage to the bank and to all debtors who have lost their property by a return to the gold currency, *Langhorn* 8966, 8977.

4. *Effect of a Silver Standard on money contracts and prices.*

Gold would always bear a higher relative value than silver, and it would be an advantage to compel a receipt in silver, but with a power of paying in gold, *Calthrop* 8069–8076——If currency depreciated by a silver standard, debts would not be paid in gold; gold standard should be reduced, *Langhorn* 8998–9008——Presumed that a rise in prices by a substitution of silver would not raise the price of other commodities to an extent injurious to foreign trade or mercantile transactions, *Langhorn* 9023——Proposed standard of value for the issue of silver, and effect on the issue of paper and on prices, *Burgess* 16164–16172——Statements of change in the value of silver and gold are without reference to the depreciation of the paper, Lord *Ashburton* 17771——Particulars as to the law in 1778, 1783 and 1798 with regard to silver being a legal tender by tale or by weight, Lord *Ashburton* 17621–17626——Proportions in the value between gold and silver must be re-adjusted in the event of a silver standard, to prevent the displacement of gold, *Burgess* 16126–16129.

See also *Exchanges. Gold and Silver Standard. One-pound Notes. Panic. Standard of Value. Taxation*, 2.

Six-course System of Husbandry. Nature of the six-course system, *Babbs* 3216, 3217; *Parker* 12394, 12395; *Freeland* 14798——Particulars as to the six-course system adopted in Scotland, *Hope* 9880–9884——It has latterly been adopted by witness, from stock and wool having been higher than corn, *Bell* 11840, 11841.

Small Notes. See *Irish Banking System.*

Smallpiece, George. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Occupier of 500 or 600 acres of different descriptions of soil near Guildford, Surrey, 2834–2836——The condition of the tenantry in the west of England improved since 1833, 2838, 2839——Wealds of Surrey and Sussex have been improved by the last two or three dry summers, 2841, 2842, 2861–2863——Diminution of supply and price of sheep in the west of England and in Surrey, 2843–2846——Increase of the price of wheat in Guildford market in the last six weeks, 2848–2851——In the west there is a great deal of wheat on hand, but in Surrey there is not

Smallpiece, George. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

not more than an average, 2852——Price of wheat has risen from having been used for cattle, from the failure of the turnip crops, 2853, 2854——Condition of the labourer never was better, 2857, 2933–2936——Reduction of poor-rate has been ten per cent. in Surrey parishes since 1833, 2859, 2860——Capital of farmers is gone; improvements from draining, 2861–2863——Not more than an average crop of wheat last year; state of other crops, 2864–2867——Farmers farming light barley land and having sheep are doing well, 2868–2871——Nothing but higher prices will improve the condition of farmers, 2877, 2878——Amount that would be remunerating for wheat, 2879–2882.

Wages are generally higher on the best land, 2883–2888——Effect of the rot in causing a rise in the price of wool, 2889–2903——Manner in which the price of meat affected by the rot, 2904–2911——Comparative crops of barley, 1833–1835, and effect on price, 2912–2916——Improvement in the condition of farmers on clay soils from dry seasons, 2920–2924——Rise in the price of wheat will be continued with this year's growth, from its good quality, 2925–2932——Reduction of poor-rates in the weald of Sussex attributed to the Poor Law Act, 2939–2957——People of capital do not like to embark in the cultivation of land, 2958–2960——Tenantry on the heavy clay lands in the wealds of Surrey and Sussex are improved, which improvement has not extended to Bucks, 2961–2980——Farmers have as much corn in hand as they had in 1833, 2981–2983——Reduction of rents in the last seven years and since 1834, 2984–2994.

Extent of occupancy of land by owners, and whether land improved in consequence when re-let, 2995–3004——Owners do not like to sell their land not being able to employ the money in another way, 3005–3007——Reduction of the duty on clover would not do the farmer much good, 3012–3017——Draining is an addition to the expense of cultivation however cheaply done, 3026–3029——Comparative stock of sheep in different counties before the rot and since, 3030–3439——Comparative rents before the war and since, 3042–3055——Increased growth of potatoes decreases the price of wheat, 3057–3060——Number of years' purchase of land in Surrey, 3065, 3066——Cause of labourers being better off than they were formerly, 3072–3080.

County-rate in Surrey has decreased since 1833, but not to a great extent, 3081–3083——Farming tradesmen's charges are reduced, 3084–3088——Advantages of the Poor Law Bill in reducing rates, 3101–3104——With remunerating prices farmers could employ more labourers, which would improve their condition, 3106–3111——How far the upland farmers affected by the rot, 3113–3121——Difficulty of effecting sales of land, 3127–3129——Witness would not object to give two hundred years' purchase for a farm near Guildford, which would not let for more than one shilling an acre, in consequence of improvements that might be made on it, which could not be made by a tenant, 3130–3141———Employment of labourers in draining has reduced poor-rates, 3142–3147——Proportion the price of barley bears to that of wheat; how far it may cause an increase in the growth of barley, 3148–3156, 3194–3196——How far it is profitable for landlords to lay out money in improvements, 3160–3164, 3176–3181.

Malt tax repeal would be a relief to not a great extent, 3168–3171——A rise in the price of wheat may occasion the employment of more labourers, 3182–3186——Rate of composition for tithe, 3188–3191——Composition for tithes will encourage cultivation, 3197, 3198——Sale price of South Down wool in Surrey, 1812–1835, 3200——Average number and price of lambs bought at Weyhill fair, 1825–1835, by G. and J. Smallpiece of Compton, near Guildford, Surrey, 3201.

Small Proprietors. There are as many occupiers of their own land in the neighbourhood of Bedfont as there used to be, *Sherborn* 4028——There are few who occupy the whole of their own land in the neighbourhood of Harmondsworth, *Tillyer* 4181——Farmers farm their own estates in the Isle of Thanet; they have been losers since 1833, *Cramp* 9486, 9487——They are but just able to carry on their farms in Somersetshire, *Hancock* 11308–11310.

See also *County Rates*, 3. *Mortgages. Yeomen.*

Small Seeds. Quantity of small seeds sown per acre on witness's farm, *Iles* 7419.

Small Tithes. Great difficulty in compelling the payment of small tithes, *Hancock* 11449.

Smith's Plough. See *Cultivation, II.* 1, 3. *Draining*, 4. *Ploughing. Reaping Machine. Steam Plough. Sub-soil Ploughing.*

Smith, James. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Farmer and manufacturer at Deanston, occupying 200 acres, 14970–14973——Nature of the soil, 14974–14978——Particulars as to witness's mode of draining, 14979–14983, 14986, 14987, 15211–15223——Period of using the sub-soil plough invented by witness, and particulars as to its operation, 14984–15028——Course of cultivation and rotation of crops upon the improved land, 15029–15037——Description of seed sown in laying down the land in grass, 15038–15044——Particulars as to the cattle and sheep with which grass land stocked, 15045–15065——Experiments upon the depth of ploughing for sowing oats, 15066–15069——As regards the mere expense of cultivation, witness's improvements have repaid themselves, 15070, 15071——Value of the land increased from 15*s.* to 2*l.* per acre, 15072.

761

Smith, James. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

Extent to which witness's system has been followed in Scotland, England and Ireland, 15073–15075——Condition of tenants very comfortable, 15076——Improvements by tenants; extent of assistance by landlords, 15076–15083——Considerable districts of land producing wheat which did not formerly, 15084–15086——Expense per acre of witness's draining, 15089, 15090——Particulars as to witness's invention of a reaping machine, 15091–15098——Machinery may be applied to cheapening production in agriculture as well as manufactures, 15103–15105——Examination upon the construction of and effect of a steam plough, 15099–15102, 15106–15113.

Capital and labour might be employed in the reclamation of waste land; how far steam might be profitably applied to it, 15114–15117——Quantity of moss land in Scotland capable of improvement, 15118–15146—— Cause and effect of low prices, 15147–15151 Advantage of frequent draining and sub-soil ploughing, 15152–15160——Period and mode of manuring and cropping after sub-soil ploughing, 15161–15169——Disadvantage of the system of tillage pursued in England, 15170.

Description of marsh land that the sub-soil plough would not be applicable to, 15171——It is applicable to dry land, 15172–15175——Further instances where witness's system has been adopted with success, 15176–15182——Evidence upon different and improved modes of ploughing, 15183–15210——Improving lands in the United Kingdom would avoid emigration, 15224——Advantages of Drummond's Agricultural Museum, 15225–15233——Intelligence of Scotch farmers, 15234–15236——Law of hypothec should be altered, 15237–15248——The present system of banking in Scotland aids the agriculturist, 15249——Abolition of one-pound notes would have been attended with considerable injury to Scotland, 15250, 15251.

Smuggling. The making fine spirits would destroy smuggling in England as it has done in Scotland, *Dunlop* 9202——Extent of smuggling of foreign spirits in England, *Dunlop* 9202——Is not carried to any great extent in malt, *Hetherington* 3231——Very great deal of every description of duty run in Ireland, *Hetherington* 9234.

See also *Malt Duty*, 6.

Smuggling Corn. Foreign corn imported to British America and brought to Britain as colonial produce, *Brown* 12228.

See also *Irish Corn*, 3. *Irish Malt.*

Soap. Reduction of the duty on soap would increase the value of fat and by that means assist the stock farmer, *Parker* 12605, 12606.

See also *Tallow.*

Soap and Candles. Reduction therein does not much benefit the poor man, *Babbs* 3398.

Soils. See *Farms. Land.*

Soot. Is very little used as manure in Haddington, *Brodie* 10498.

Sovereigns. More sovereigns coined just before the panic than there had ever been before, *Haggard* 16279–16283.

Spain. Import from Spain in 1829; the crops there are very uncertain, *Calthrop* 7870–7872——At present our trade with Spain is almost entirely cut up by the Germans, *Muntz* 16633——Effect of the depreciated currency on gaining the Spanish market at a profit, *Muntz* 16662–16668.

Spalding. Good quality of land; acreable produce, *Calthrop* 7782, 7785——Ports to which corn shipped from, *Calthrop* 7829–7833——Increased growth of wheat, *Calthrop* 8115–8125.

SPECULATION:

1. *Generally.*
2. *In Corn.*

1. *Generally.*

In railroads, joint stock banks, &c. has decreased the value of wheat, *Scott* 5145–5147——The low rate of profit in ordinary pursuits causes extraordinary speculation, *Sanders* 6219–6225——Speculations of the present day will end in the same manner as those of 1825, but, being internal, will not take money out of the country so fast, *Muntz* 16445–16448——Those entered into on fair mercantile grounds are advantageous, and tend to prevent an alternation of high and low prices, *Calthrop* 8063–8066.

2. *In Corn.*

Causes which have led to less speculation in wheat than formerly, *Scott* 5279–5281, 5294–5297——Low price of wheat attributed to want of speculation more than the redundant quantity, *Scott* 5744–5751——Want of speculation caused by low prices and there being no tendency to rise, *Hodgson* 6343, 6344, 6380–6385; *Sturge* 7277–7289——Causes of speculation in foreign corn, *Frean* 15330–15333——Has increased within the last

Speculation:—2. *In Corn*—continued.

last nine months, and particularly within the last two or three months, *Sanders* 6046–6049, 6103–6105; *Sturge* 7277–7280, 7284–7289; *Calthrop* 7837–7840; *Bickerton* 8841 ——Whether there is likely to be speculation from the appearance of the present crop, *Calthrop* 7984–7986.

See also *Agricultural Distress*, 5. *Corn Laws*, 1. *Joint Stock Banks*. *Panic*. *Price of Corn*, 1, 6, 8, 11. *Statistics*. *West India Compensation Fund*.

Spirits. Many labourers will buy potatoes instead of wheat, and spend the surplus in gin, *Jacob* 118——Increased revenue from spirits from increased consumption after reduction of duty, *Dunlop* 9149——There is not more spirits obtained from malt than barley, it is merely a question of flavour, *Dunlop* 9180–9182——Quantity of spirits consumed in England annually, *Dunlop* 9194——Those made from malt only come from Scotland; their consumption in families is rapidly increasing, *Dunlop* 9199–9201.

See also *Corn Spirits*. *Smuggling*. *West India Colonies*.

Spooner, Richard. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—A banker, also farming a highly-cultivated small farm, 15568–15571——Depressed state of farmers, 15572–15576——High prices of produce latterly have only benefited capitalists, 15577–15579——Rise in the price of produce within the last three months, and causes, 15580–15582——The rise of prices emanating from joint stock banks not likely to be permanent, 15583–15586——Fall of prices commenced in 1815; it first affected the commercial and manufacturing interests, and ultimately fell on the farming interest, 15587–15591——Failure of banks in 1816, and causes, 15592–15598——Effect on all the productive classes of the resumption of cash payments in 1819, and the subsequent issue of notes in 1822, 15599–15617.

A general rate of high prices is perfectly inconsistent with the present standard of value, 15618——Taking wheat as the standard, the average price for a number of years under the present standard would not be 5*s*. a bushel; shown by the averages of one hundred years before 1797, 15619–15622——Further causes which have tended to raise the price of wheat at present, 15623–15626——Causes of the price of barley being relatively higher than wheat, 15627, 15628——Causes of the rise in the price of meat, which is not natural, 15629–15633——Cause of the small stock of cattle in the hands of farmers at present, 15634–15640——Price of wool sustained by the demand for the foreign manufactures; how far borne out by increased exports, 15641–15646——Present state of prosperity of the commercial and manufacturing interests will not continue, 15647, 15648 ——Orders for manufactured goods have been countermanded in Birmingham, and there is a great demand for gold from America, 15648–15651.

Proposed alteration of the currency; necessity for a joint standard of gold and silver, 15652–15673——Advantages that would arise from an inconvertible paper currency to the extent of the dividends, 15674–15879, 15725–15765——It would not be an act of injustice now to place the currency on a more extended basis, 15680–15685—— Examination upon the causes of the pressure in the money market in 1793 and 1797 and 1810, 15686–15690.

Farmers not injured by over production, but by selling at low prices, 15691—— Growth of wheat greater during the last ten or twelve years, but has materially decreased this year, 15692–15694——Complaints on cold clay lands, improvements on light lands have been going on for thirty-five years, 15696–15706——Farmers cannot get that accommodation from bankers that tradesmen can, 15707–15709——More the interest of bankers to advocate steady prices and general prosperity than a depreciation of the standard, 15710——Depreciation of the standard would benefit all classes, 15711–15713 ——It would not affect the exports of the country, 15715, 15716——Proposed per centage of depreciation, 15717–15724 —— Reason why the commercial and manufacturing interests in their contracts have not adjusted themselves to the present standard of value, 1819, 15766–15778.

Extent to which the circulating medium of the country would be increased by witness's plan; present extent of it, 15779–15788——Effect of the proposed alteration on creditors, mortgagees and landlords, 15789–15793——Depreciation of value would cause rents to be maintained, but not risen, 15794–15797——Per centage reduction that has taken place in rents, 15798–15801——Productive power of land has diminished, 15805, 15806——Effect of the altered standard on the prices of wheat, barley and oats, 15807–15810——Labourers are at present better off, 15811–15814——Landlords have assisted draining, 15816–15819——Price of wheat that would be remunerating, 15820, 15821——Corn laws with the present standard of value are a dead letter, 15222, 15823, 15834, 15835——Comparative state of the manufacturing, commercial and agricultural interests, 15826–15833.

Further evidence upon the rise of prices that will be occasioned by the proposed depreciated standard, 15836–15856——Effect of proposed alteration on rents and poor-rate, 15858–15864——Opinion in favour of taking off the malt duty, 16865–15910—— If farmers permitted to malt for feeding cattle, it should be confined to grain of his own growth, of which he should make a return, 15911–15914——Farmers would use malt for cattle, if they had but half the duty to pay, 15915–15916.

765

Spring Crops. Great crop of spring grain has caused more corn to be sent to market than usual, *Page* 2690, 2691——The present a very fine one; 1834 one of the worst ever known in Essex, *Page* 2709——They have been an average for the last three years in Lincolnshire, *Iles* 7355-7366——They have been very good during the last three years in East Lothian, *Howden* 10085-10087—— Higher price obtained for spring crops has not made up for the deficiency in those crops, *Howard* 5379, *Freeland* 14881, 14882 ——Less wheat has been sown in 1834 and 1835 from the want of a good vegetating season, and from the price of spring crops being more remunerative, *Howard* 5402-5406——Deficiency of oats and beans in the harvests of 1833-1835 has caused them to bear a relatively higher price than wheat, *Calthrop* 7799-7803——Those on cold soils not so good in 1833 as last year, *Bennett* 8378-8380——More of all descriptions of spring corn will be sown this year, *Ellis* 10717, 10718.

See also *Price of Corn*, 5.

Standard of Value. Alteration therein would not be the slightest advantage to the agricultural interest, *Sanders* 6301——Depreciation of the standard would benefit all classes by reducing taxation; it would not produce evils to the manufacturing or labouring classes, *Spooner* 15711-15713——Prices cannot be maintained according to the present standard; alteration of the standard will not produce similar injustice to that of the measure of 1819, *Spooner* 15766-15778.

See also *Agricultural Prosperity. Cash Payments. Commercial Distress. Commercial and Manufacturing Interests. Contracts. Corn Laws*, 3. *Creditors. Debt, National. Gold Standard. Gold and Silver Standard. Manufacturing Interest. Panic. Price of Corn*, 11. *Russia. Silver Standard. War.*

Stares, Robert Hatch. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Farming 1200 acres at Droxford, Hants, 11493-11495——Condition of farmers worse than in 1833, and causes, 11496-11499——Average produce, 11509, 11510——Wages have not been reduced, except from what they rose to during the riots, 11512-11513——Extent to which the Poor Law Bill has reduced the rates in same parishes, 11514-11518——Comparative cost of cultivation of witness's farm, and price of wheat from 1780 to 1790 and 1835, 11519-11522 ——There has been a gradually descending scale for wheat for the last twenty years, with an occasional re-action, 11524-11532——Crops of wheat have been an average, but there has not been a corresponding increase with the population, 11535-11542——More sheep bred than formerly, and of a different description, 11546-11551——Notwithstanding improvement, farmers are worse off than formerly, 11552.

Loss on sheep from the deficiency of the turnip crop, 11558-11563——From 60*s.* to 64*s.* would be sufficiently remunerating to make interest of money, 11560——Whether a return to a paper currency would cause a rise in prices generally; if so, it would still be a benefit to the farmer, 11569-11578——There are several farms where the rent has been reduced to what it was in 1792, 11579——Instance of a particular farm which will not bear its rent at present prices, 11580-11584——Further evidence upon the effect of the paper currency formerly, and upon the effect of a return thereto, 11589-11628——Agriculturists could get better accommodation when one-pound notes were in circulation than they can now, 11632, 11633——Cultivation has improved under men of capital, 11636, 11637.

Poor Law Bill has thrown labourers upon their own resources, and there is not sufficient employment to give them remunerating prices, 11642——There is no difficulty in finding tenants for farms going out of lease, but they are not always men with sufficient capital, 11652-11655——Great deal of down land ploughed up during the war, which, at the present prices, would have been better to have remained as it was, 12657-11663 ——When the one-pound notes were in circulation, farmers could get small sums lent them by bankers, which they cannot get in sovereigns, 11665, 11707-11712——Farmers of known capital, and with good security, have no difficulty in getting money, 11666, 11667 ——Reducing the tithes, poor-rates, and labour to what they were from 1780-1790, and granting a total repeal of the malt tax, would be better than altering the currency, 11668, 11669——Opinion in favour of a repeal of the malt tax and substitution of a property tax, 11673——Also in favour of repealing the malt tax and taking off the duty on foreign barley, 11675.

Farmers have been losing capital since 1820, 11680-11684——To what extent there has been a change of tenantry latterly, 11685-11693——Tendency of the rot to make sheep in the upland soils valuable; probable deficiency of sheep next year, 11694-11706—— Tradesmen did better when price of wheat was higher; they complain of rents being paid at the expense of their bills, 11713-11715——Growth of barley would be increased if the malt tax taken off, 11716-11718——It would have been better that the tax should have been left on beer and taken off malt, 11719-11721——Raising the price of wheat by an alteration of the currency would not be prejudicial to the manufacturing interest, 11723-11728——No tax so annoying as the malt tax; annual amount of saving by its repeal, 11729-11733——Expense per acre of bone-dust, 11734-11736.

The higher price of stock has not remunerated for the lower price of wheat, 11737, 11738——Twenty-five per cent. rise on wheat in the last few months, but which has gone back 4*s.* a quarter in the last fortnight, 11741-11745——Amount of rent per acre, 11746-11748——Witness is not richer than he was four years ago, 11753——Profit ought to be fifteen per cent. on capital employed, 11755——Witness has not had a reduction of rent

Stares, Robert Hatch. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

on either of his leases, 11758–11769——Witness's farm being in a high state of cultivation could be let at the same rent now paid, 11776, 11777——Stipulation in leases with regard to cropping, 11778–11780——Reducing the duty on clover-seed would be injurious to the counties where it is grown, 11781–11784——English seed preferred to foreign, 11785–11787——Principle of the Commutation of Tithe Bill, being on the average of the last seven years, is not fair, 11789–11794——Voluntary system preferred, 11795–11798——Commutation should be taken according to the annual value of the land; manner in which the land should be valued, 11799–11819.

Statistics. A statistical return of the acreage of land under cultivation of corn crops, including Ireland, and the quantity of flour manufactured by millers, would be of great national advantage, and might be made by parish overseers, through medium of Poor Law Amendment Act, *Hall* 5002; *Sanders* 6318, 6319, 6971–6976; *Sturge* 7217–7220; *Calthrop* 8167–8175; *Bickerton* 8746–8750——The plan of Cropper, Benson & Co., of Liverpool, might be adopted, *Sturge* 7217–7220——There would be difficulty in getting a correct return from the farmers, *Bickerton* 8746–8750——It would encourage speculation, *Church* 13527–13529——It must be compelled by law, and officers appointed for obtaining them, which would cause great expense, *Church* 13560–13564.

See also *Survey of Crops.*

Statute Duty. Amount paid for: In Shropshire, *Bickerton* 8733, 8734——In Haddington, *Brodie* 10299——In East Lothian, *Howden* 9993.

Staves. See *Casks.*

Steam. How far steam might be profitably applied to the reclamation of waste lands, *Smith* 15114–15117.

Steam Navigation. Advantage to Ireland and Scotland of steam navigation; rise of prices in consequence, *Sanders* 6989–6995, 7013–7017; *Walker* 10651–10653, 10671, 10672; *Church* 13445; *Robertson* 13609, 13610; *Menzies* 14082–14089; *Shawe* 14354——*Burgess* 16102;——Cost of sending cattle to London by steam, *Walker*, 10673——The farmers of Ayrshire have not been induced to fatten cattle for the purpose of being sent to London by steam, *Brown* 12236, 12237.

Steam Plough. Advantages of a steam plough in cultivating lands, *Ellis* 10890–10894——Examination upon the construction and effect of a steam plough, *Smith* 15099–15102, 15106–15113.

See also *Cultivation, II.* 1, 3. *Draining*, 4. *Ploughing. Sub-soil Ploughing.*

Stevenson, Richard. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Farmer, maltster and general merchant at Barton, near Nottingham, 13051, 13052——Farmers in Nottinghamshire worse off than in 1833, 13055–13060——Abatements in rent since 1820, 13061–13068——Reduction of the malt duty would increase the growth of barley, and that sufficiently to meet the increased demand; it could be grown on some of the best clay soils, 13069–13076——More wheat has been grown than would naturally in the place of barley, from barley having been so heavily taxed, 13077, 13078.

Instance of a farm farmed by the landlord, and afterwards let at a reduced rent, 13079–13084——County-rate very high in Nottingham, 13085–13087——The burning Nottingham Castle and the silk mill increased the hundred rates, 13088–13090——Amount of poor-rate assessed on an ancient rate made in 1760, 13091–13097——Labourers better off with cheap provisions and plentiful employment than formerly, 13098, 13099, 13101, 13108——Rate of wages, and reduction therein, 13103–13107, 13113–13115——When the stocking trade slack, the weavers compel the overseers of agricultural parishes to relieve them, 13109–13112.

Stirling Agricultural Association. See *Agricultural Museum.*

Stirling, Strath of. See *Moss Land.*

Stock. See *Agistment Stock. Capital*, 3. *Cattle. Clay Land*, 8. *Cultivation, III.* 1. *Irish Cattle. Pasture Land.*

Stockholders. See *Cash Payments.*

Stock of Corn on Hand:

1. *Diminution of Stock on Hand.*
2. *Extent of the Stock on Hand, in some cases showing an increase.*

1. *Diminution of Stock on Hand.*

A very small stock on hand at the harvest of 1832, *Jacob* 11——Considerable stock on hand at the end of 1834, *Jacob* 12——Not so much in the hands of farmers as formerly, *Cortis* 1824; *Kemp* 1940–1942, 1963; *Thurnall* 2324–2326, 2507, 2567–2570; *Smallpiece* 3187; *Babbs* 3231–3235; *Bowyer* 3530, 3531; *Calthrop* 7970–7976——Caused by distress of farmers, *Kemp* 1940–1942; *Thurnall* 2507; *Babbs* 3231–3235——Want of money for paying rent causes farmers to thrash out earlier, *Rolfe* 1353–1355; *Thurnall* 2327–2338, 2567–2570; *Babbs* 3231–3235; *Scott* 5110–5112——Not more than an average quantity is left on hand, *Ruding* 17177, 17275, 17276, *Hayes* 17472——Stock on hand very small in the hands of millers and small farmers, *Thurnall* 2324–2326——In the last ten years it would but once have paid to keep wheat, *Cortis* 1824.

2. *Extent*

765

STOCK OF CORN ON HAND:—continued.

2. *Extent of the Stock on Hand in some cases showing an increase.*

Farmers have as much corn in their hands as generally, *Page* 2689; *Smallpiece* 2981–2983; *Morton* 3674–3676, 3678; *Sherborn* 4025–4027, 4113; *Tillyer* 4171; *Ellman* 4779, 4780; *Crowther* 12966–12968; *Ruding* 17170–17172——In the west there is a great deal of wheat on hand, but in Surrey there is not more than an average, *Smallpiece* 2852——Stock of corn in the hands of the farmers as moderate as in any of the three preceding years, *Scott* 5073–5075——Stocks of farmers have been larger during the last seven years than they were in the seven years antecedent to 1827, *Scott* 5105–5109——Stock of corn in the hands of dealers has been less than usual during the last two or three years; that in the hands of farmers is larger than usual, *Sanders* 6030–6032.

Stock in the hands of farmers larger than ever, from the extent of the crops, *Sanders* 6297, 6751, 6772–6775——Stock in hands of farmers is a full stock, though the crop of last year was very deceptive, the produce being less than was expected on thrashing out, *Hodgson* 6346, 6347——At Wakefield and Leeds, and in Yorkshire, generally, the stocks have accumulated, *Calthrop* 7836, 7977——There is a sufficient stock in hand for the wants of the country; bulk of the corn is in the hands of the dealers and rich farmers, *Calthrop* 8140–8153——Greater stock of corn in the hands of farmers within fifteen miles round Leamington than ever there was, or than there is in the same distance round any other part of the kingdom, *Umbers* 8541, 8542.

More stock in the hands of farmers now than there was ten or fifteen years ago, *Bickerton* 8836–8838——There is not more than usual in the hands of millers and factors; there is some in the hands of private speculators, *Bickerton* 8839, 8840——Farmers have a considerable quantity of corn in hand, *Hancock* 11412——Vast quantity of the surplus of last year has been applied to feeding cattle, *Bowyer* 3526, 3527——Opinion that there is a great deal of corn in farmers' hands, notwithstanding some witnesses state the contrary, Lord *Ashburton* 17598——Quantity of wheat in the hands of millers and corn-dealers in the south of Ireland is considerable, *Sanders* 7083–7085.

See also *Price of Corn*, 1, 6, 8, 9.

Straw. Advantage per acre in the sale of straw possessed by farmers within fifteen miles of London, *Sherborn* 4094–4101——Tenants are not allowed, generally, to sell their straw, *Thurnall* 2455.

Straw Draining. See *Draining*, 4.

Sturge, Joseph. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Number of quarters of corn imported from Ireland annually since 1830 by witness's house, 7165——Fluctuation in the corn trade was the inducement to change to the commission trade, 7168——Corn laws have at all times had a tendency to produce fluctuation, 7169——State of crops 1830–1835, 7170 7180——Opinion that there is a greater acreable produce than there was fifteen or twenty years ago, 7181–7185, 7221, 7222——State of the weather during harvests of 1833 and 1834, 7186–7188——High prices are decidedly to the interest of the commission merchant, 7189——Corn laws are injurious to all classes of the community, 7190——An account of the total quantity of wheat and wheat flour imported into Great Britain from Ireland from 1800–1825, 7191, 7192——The quantity of corn, meal and flour imported into Great Britain from Ireland in the years 1826–1834, 7191, 7192——Opinion that the exports of corn from Ireland have reached their maximum; Ireland is capable of consuming a greater proportion of the better kind of food than formerly, 7195, 7196.

Poor laws may tend to increase the consumption of the better kind of food, 7198, 7199——Corn returns give a fair criterion as to prices, but are very delusive as to quantity; mode of speculation under the present corn laws, to affect averages, in order to liberate bonded wheat, 7200–7212——Proportion of wheat grown on heavy soils; dry seasons suit those soils, 7213–7216——Mode by which returns might at a small expense be made of the quantity of wheat grown annually, 7217–7220——Extent of advantage the British farmer has over the foreigner from his proximity to the port of consumption, 7226–7248, 7270–7276, 7299, 7300——Prices of wheat 1824–1831 caused lands to be cultivated that would otherwise have been employed to some other purpose, and which, in some instances have occasioned losses, 7258——Low price of wheat has been latterly from excess of production, 7258——Less wheat sown this year in several districts than last year, 7259.

Average price of wheat last year in France, which is lower than for the seventeen previous years, 7267——Cause of the want of speculation in corn of late years, 7277–7280, 7284–7289——Speculation latterly has principally shown itself in railways, 7281——Credit is as cheap as is desirable, 7282, 7283——Late rise in the price of wheat attributed to increased consumption, to the last harvest not being over productive, and to the unfavourable state of the crop in the ground, but which rise will not benefit those who have sold their corn, 7290–7294——Corn-factors engaged in the foreign corn trade are more in favour of a high fixed duty than of any thing approaching to free trade, 7295–7298——Cheapness of food, under a free trade, would compensate the landlord and labourer for the fall of prices, the charges on land remaining the same, 7301, 7302——It would be fairer to take the averages by way of comparison previous to the war than for the first fifteen years of the war; close approximation of the averages 1785–1795, and 1830–1836, 7305–7308.

Sub-letting. Under a system of sub-letting, a fall in prices will produce derangement though a small farmer, following a proper rotation, will pay his rent when a large farmer cannot, *Blacker* 15477–15481.

Sub-soil Plough. Particulars relative to the invention of Mr. Smith of Deanston; mode adopted; cost per acre; advantages of the system, *Walker* 10616–10628; *Brown* 12219–12136, 12146–12150; *Menzies* 13996–14006, 14007–14038; *Smith* 14984–15028, 12152–15169, 15176–15182——Memorandum by T. F. Kennedy, Esq., of Dunure, respecting his experience of Mr. Smith's system, *Loch* 16326.

See also *Dry Land. Marsh Land.*

Survey of Crops. Nature of Mr. Hodgson's plan for surveying crops to ascertain the produce per acre through the kingdom, *Sanders* 6888–6892.

Surrey and Sussex, Wealds of. Have been improved by the last two or three dry summers, *Smallpiece* 2841, 2842.

Sweden. Paper circulation exists in Sweden, issued under the regulations of commissioners; great prosperity in that country, *Burgess* 16039–16044.

Swedish Turnips. Are of no advantage to farmers, *Morton* 3779.

See also *Turnips.*

Switzerland. Price of corn less fluctuating than here; grown principally for consumption by the higher class and for foreign export, *Jacob* 39–41.

T.

Tallow. The duty on candles and soap being taken off, and imposed on the importation of tallow, would afford relief to the farmers, *Ellman* 4787–4802——Is not very considerable in the value of a beast, *Howard* 5548–5550——Price of tallow will fluctuate with the price of agricultural produce, *Hodgson* 6476.

See also *Fixed Duty*, 3. *Wool and Tallow.*

Tankerville, Lord. Twenty per cent. reduction of rent on land on Lord Tankerville's estate, in Northumberland, *Langhorn* 7554, 7555.

Task-work. Not more reduced than regular wages, *Brickwell* 473, 474——When carried to any extent is injurious to the character of the labourer, *Hall* 5007–5011——Reduction in the price of task-work has been about twenty-five or thirty per cent., *Atkinson* 5931–5933——The farmers' poverty causes less task-work, *Freeland* 14842–14845.

TAXATION:

1. *Taxes pressing on Agriculture, which it would be desirable to remit.*
2. *Manner in which altered Currency has affected Taxation.*

1. *Taxes pressing on Agriculture, which it would be desirable to remit.*

Taxes taken off since 1814 have diminished the cost of growing wheat, *Sanders* 6193–6196——Taxes which press immediately on the occupiers of lands, the remission of which would be beneficial, *Sanders* 6798, 6799; *Parker* 12602–12610——All taxes, direct and indirect, bear on the agricultural interest, *Calthrop* 7905–7908——Every reduction of taxation that bears upon agriculture would benefit the farmer, *Parker* 12601–12603——Alteration of the taxes of the country the only means of relief to the agriculturist, *Spooner* 15854, 15855——Whether the greater taxation borne by the English farmer causes him to require a higher price for his produce than the Scotch farmer, *Bell* 12002–12004.

2. *Manner in which altered Currency has affected Taxation.*

If taxation paid in produce, it is as high now as during the war, *Muntz* 16476–16479——Reduction of taxation a mere delusion; salaries have been put on to a greater extent than taken off, *Muntz* 16621–16623——There may have been a nominal reduction of taxation and real increase in the change from the value of money, Earl *Radnor* 16747, 16748——Relief that the diminution of taxation would afford; might be much counteracted by the rise of price owing to the bill of 1819, Earl *Radnor* 16770–16774——Manner in which the issue of paper to diminish taxation is a tampering with the currency, Earl *Radnor* 16990–16992——Abolition of the silver has added five per cent. to the weight of taxation, Lord *Ashburton* 17660, 17661.

See also *Agricultural Distress*, 5. *Agricultural Labourers*, 3. *Assessed Taxes. Bonded Corn. Gold Standard. Local Taxation. Malt Tax*, 4. *Standard of Value.*

Tenantry:

1. *Extent to which changes in Tenantry have taken place.*
2. *Condition of Tenantry.*

1. *Extent to which changes in Tenantry have taken place.*

Extent to which changes have taken place in tenantry latterly over former years, *Sanders* 6783–6787——In Bucks, *Brickwell* 326, 523–531; *Cortis* 1760–1765——In Essex, *Babbs* 3240–3244——In East Lothian, *Howden* 10113–10117——In Hampshire, *Stares* 11685-11693——In Huntingdonshire, *Bowyer* 3456, 3457——In Middlesex, *Tillyer* 4160, 4161——In Warwickshire, *Umbers* 8590–8598——Caused by the high money-rents not being adapted to the low prices sufficiently quick, *Howden* 10113–10117——Prudent in some cases to give something to get a tenant off a farm who has been exhausting it, *Brickwell* 541——Succeeding tenants not always men of capital, *Bowyer* 3456, 3457; *Stares* 11652–11655; *Boniface* 13136–13140——Any change of tenantry has been among men without capital and with young men who have been imprudent or occupy inferior soils, *Ellis* 10846–10851; *Parker* 12403, 12404——Arrangements with regard to crops between the outgoing and incoming tenant, *Brodie* 10402–10407; *Ellis* 10872–10875.

2. *Condition of Tenantry.*

Many farmers are either at the mercy of their landlords or farming on borrowed capital, *Rolfe* 1652–1655; *Kemp* 2123, 2124——Tenantry in Ireland are depressed now from the want of demand for wheat; they have been obliged to sell at low prices to merchants and millers, *Brassington* 14601, 14602——In Scotland, they are in good condition, are thriving and improving their lands, *Menzies* 13946; *M'Dougal* 14513; *Smith* 15076——Are decidedly better now than they were a few years after the peace; they have been suffering for a long time from the gradual decline of prices, *Blacker* 15421–15424.

See also *Capital. Farmers.*

Tender. See *Bank Charter. Five-pound Notes. Silver Standard.*

Thanet, Isle of. Soil of the Isle of Thanet is light and easily cultivated, *Cramp* 9481, 9482——Comparative quality of Isle of Thanet wheat with that of other parishes in Kent, *Cramp* 9495, 9496.

Thirteen Year Rotation. Description of soil and rotation of crops according to a thirteen year rotation, *Robertson* 13753–13758.

Thornborough Parish. Difficulty of letting a farm in this parish from the low price of produce, and the bad state of the land, rent formerly paid, &c., *Brickwell* 327–331, 375–387——Amount of poor-rate and tithe, *Brickwell* 333–337, 426–428.

Thornton, Mr. *Henry.* See *Currency,* 1.

Thrashing. Rate of wages per bushel paid at Beaconsfield, *Rolfe* 1744.

Thrashing Machines. There is no saving in the use of them, *Rolfe* 1745——Are economical if there is no surplus labour, but not if labourers are maintained by the parish, *Bowyer* 3636, 3637—— Quantities of corn thrashed by machines which supersedes manual labour, *Bowyer* 3636——Are used at Harmondsworth; there are not barns enough to thrash all by manual labour, *Tillyer* 4256——The use of thrashing machines has been but lately introduced into Lincolnshire, *Iles* 7538, 7539——Advantages of them; cost price and quantity thrashed per diem; cost of coal for those worked by steam, *Hope* 9679–9690—— Are not so much used now as they were a few years back, *Parker* 12432.

Three-course System. Description thereof, *Cox* 14120, 14121.

Thurnall, William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Loss on witness's farm at Duxford, Cambridgeshire, attributed to the contraction of currency, 2268, 2269——Land ceased to pay a profit about four years ago; corn bore a better price previous to that, 2276–2281——Wet seasons better for upland farms, 2282–2288——Deficient crops the cause of the present price of barley, as compared with wheat, 2290–2296——High price of meat is no recompence for a failure in the turnip crop, 2297–2302——High price of wool occasioned by the rot in sheep two or three years ago, but that loss partly supplied, 2303–2307——Farms rent free could not be cultivated at present prices, 2308–2314——There has not been an increase in the quantity of wheat sown in the last three years, 2315–2318——Harvest of 1834 was more than an average crop; that of 1835 is not, 2315, 2319–2323——Stock on hand very small in the hands of millers and small farmers, 2324–2326——Poverty causes farmers to thrash out; they are not obliged to do it for the straw, 2327–2338.

Farmers in Cambridge and the neighbouring counties are in a state of insolvency, 2339–2348——Farmers on light land suffering severely, 2349——Fires keep up wages fifty per cent. 2351–2353, 2385–2387——Labourers in a desperate condition, principally from want of employment occasioned by the poverty of the farmers, which, with their antipathy to the Poor Law Bill, causes very demoralizing effects 2354–2371——Rents when paid well are paid at the expense of other creditors, 2372——Great complaints of

Thurnall, William. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

tradesmen, particularly in the town of Cambridge, 2373–2380——Cause of low prices is principally Irish produce, want of protection against foreign corn, but the principal cause is the contraction of currency, 2381——The Poor Law Bill is unjustifiable in principle, and nothing will reconcile the labourer to it, 2382–2384——Debtor and creditor account on witness's farm, 1834 to 1835, 2392–2394——Quantity of land of which the cultivation is neglected is increasing every day, 2395–2399——Impoverished condition of yeomen farming forty or fifty acres, 2413–2424——Outgoing tenants of farms in good condition leave their capital on the farms, 2425–2430, 2446–2457——Reducing the quantity of wheat and increasing that of soft corn will increase the price of the former and reduce that of the latter, 2439–2441.

Poverty of tenants very great; in one instance where rents well paid, 2442–2445——Extent to which the repeal of the malt tax and the unrestricted use of barley would benefit the farmer, 2458–2466——Poor-rates are increased from the Poor Law Bill, if the money paid in advance taken into consideration, 2476–2478——Rise in the price of barley to be attributed more to decreased growth than increasing demand for malt, 2480–2482——Price of malting barley, 2483——Price of malt manufactured, and of what the expenses of malting consist, 2484–2496——Advantage derived by maltsters from increase in wetting, 2497–2501——Memorial from maltsters that during the last three years they have paid more duty than the law requires, 2502–2504——Irish imports cause a declension in Mark Lane, 2505, 2506——Contraction of the currency a main cause of the fall of price of all produce, 2512–2516——Impossible now to obtain money from country bankers without good security, 2517–2532.

Effect of alterations in the currency in different years from 1815, 2533–2545——Scale of prices for different descriptions of produce that would be remunerative on an average of seven years, 2546–2564, 2571–2573——Alteration in the currency that would produce that scale would be beneficial, 2565, 2566——Many farming stocks have been reduced in order to pay rent, 2567–2570——Many farms let higher than they do now before the Bank Restriction Act, 2576–2580——Lands that have had great capital laid out in improvements ought to yield more rent if price of corn would allow it, 2581–2586——Acts which have caused the contraction of currency and fall in prices, 2591–2596——Present corn law not a sufficient protection, 2597——Increased population has taken up increased growth in England, 2599——Cause of the fall in the price of corn in Ireland, 2601–2604——Effect of the withdrawal of banking accommodation and contraction of currency on the credit of farmers, 2605–2615——Farmers worse off now than directly after the panic in 1825, 2616–2619——Persons in trade can get money upon personal security with greater facility than farmers, 2623–2626.

Tile Draining. See *Draining.*

Till River. Cultivation along the banks of the Till decidedly better than that of the East Riding of York, *Howard* 5534.

Tillage. Comparison between tillage and pasture land in Ireland, as to which is most on the increase, *Brassington* 14644–14649——Taking the whole of Ireland there may be as much land in tillage now as during the war, *Brassington* 14727–14729.

See also *Arable Land. Capital,* 5.

Tillyer, James. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Resides at Harmondsworth, 4144——Occupies a farm of 1,000 acres, chiefly arable, 4146, 4149——General bad condition of farmers, 4152–4155, 4163, 4164——Grass farms on clay lands generally out of condition, 4158——Land changes hands very often, 4160, 4161——Farming capital very much diminished, 4165——Generally speaking, cultivation in the neighbourhood not so good as formerly, from want of means, 4168–4170——Price of labour 12 *s.* per week, 4174——Same quantity of wheat grown now as formerly in witness's districts, 4184——Cause of present depression arises from three or four successive good crops, 4194——Sixty or sixty-three shillings would be a remunerating price for farmers for wheat, 4195.

Barley, oats, wool and sheep at good prices; only complaint is the price of wheat, 4196–4200——Beneficial to farmers and to labourers to use their own grain for malting, 4202–4205——Labourers never so well off as at present, 4207——Importation of Irish produce interferes much with English farmers, 4210——Poor-rates falling, 4213——County-rate increased, 4214——Farmers not so well off as formerly. 4216–4218——Expenses per acre of cultivating witness's farm, 4219, 4220——Evidence as to rate of wages and goodness or badness of crops 1820–1828, 4222–4243——Advantages of farms near London, from facility of getting manure, 4244–4255——Will never answer to feed cattle with malt, 4259——Witness considers there has not been one remunerating year since 1827, 4260——Taking off the malt tax at the expense of letting in foreign barley would be disadvantageous, 4263–4268.

Timber. Great depression on the price of timber and underwood, *Morton* 3774.

Tithes:

1. *Rate and Amount of Tithe and Composition for Tithe; bad effects of Tithes; Tithe in Kind.*
2. *Advantages and disadvantages of a Commutation for Tithes.*
3. *Opinions upon the proposed Tithe Bill.*

1. *Rate and Amount of Tithe and Composition for Tithe; bad effects of Tithes; Tithe in Kind.*

Amount paid on land in Essex, *Page* 2666; *Babbs* 3221——In Gloucestershire, *Hall* 4961–4968——Reduction of tithe in the parish of Stone, near Kidderminster, *Crowther* 12804, 12805——Rate of Tithes; comparison with rent, *Page* 2769–2771——Rate of composition for tithes, in Cambridgeshire, *Thurnall* 2431–2433——In Essex, *Kemp* 2229–2233; *Babbs* 3365–3368, 3373–3375; *Parker* 12625–12628——In Kent, *Neave* 9422–9426——In Lincolnshire, *Iles* 7495–7506——In Surrey, *Smallpiece* 3188–3191——In Sussex, *Ellman* 4717–4724, 4736–4740; *Goodman* 11035–11039——Tithes at Duxford hired by two farmers and let for the sum given for them; difficulty in collecting the money for them, *Thurnall* 2435——Composition for, will encourage cultivation, *Smallpiece* 3197, 3198——Not so well paid last year, *Jacob* 241——In parishes where they have not been reduced, the clergyman has taken advantage of the improvements in agriculture, *Houghton* 791, 1135——Operate as a very great drawback to agriculture, *Hancock* 11443——Very little tithe taken in kind upon the wold and clay lands of Lincolnshire, *Atkinson* 5904——In Sussex, *Ellman* 4741, 4742——Expense of collecting tithes in kind, *Cramp* 9526, 9528, 9529——The land in the East Riding of York is generally tithe free, *Howard* 5369.

2. *Advantages and disadvantages of a Commutation for Tithes.*

Commutation of, would be advantageous, *Rolfe* 1478–1486; *Page* 2791; *Morton* 3961–3965; *Hall* 5002; *Cramp* 9530–9533——Getting rid of tithes would ease rent in Ireland, *Sanders* 6115——Plan for commutation should be permanent, *Rolfe* 1478–1486——Should be voluntary, *Stares* 11795–11798——At first but compulsory at the end of five or seven years, *Parker* 12631–12637——Commutation of tithe would do away with a great deal of unpleasant feeling, *Hancock* 11432–11434——Necessity for a commutation of tithe, particularly in cases where tithes are valued annually, and thereby become a tax on a man's brains as well as his pocket, *Crowther* 12806–12811——A permanent rent charge for tithe of 5*s.* 6*d.* would not be safe, if the whole produce fell below a remunerating price, *Atkinson* 5913–5921——They should be commuted upon the principle of the fair natural value of the land with average management, and not upon the principle of improved cultivation, *Atkinson* 5922–5927.

Advantage of a commutation of tithes; it should be commuted upon a rent charge, according to the value of land on an average of years, *Bickerton* 8736–8740——Further evidence in favour of a commutation of tithes, either upon the value of the land or the value of the produce, *Bickerton* 8812–8820——Statement showing the means of arriving at a fair and just commutative value of tithe, upon any given value of produce, the quantity of produce being accurately estimated, *Cramp* 9527——Commutation and permanent rent-charge would be advantageous; the commutation should not be upon the value of the produce for the last seven years, *Neave* 9427–9435; *Stares* 11789–11794—— Commutation should be taken according to the annual value of the land; manner in which the land should be valued, *Stares* 11799–11819—— Under inclosures in the wolds the tithes are commuted for a corn-rent proportion to rent and produce, *Atkinson* 5904, 5912——Commutation of tithes would not be a benefit in witness's district, *Kemp* 2057; *Morton* 3961–3965 ——Agricultural tenants will be as well off under the present system as under any new one, *Goodman* 11035–11039.

3. *Opinions upon the proposed Tithe Bill.*

As at present framed, very unjust in its operations, *Ellman* 4733–4735——Fifteen per cent. allowed by the present Commutation of Tithes Bill is not a sufficient latitude, *Howard* 5461–5463——Objections to the proposed Tithe Bill; seven years' previous average should not form the basis; impossible to commute in perpetuity; power of revision should be given; high cultivation from extra capital should not be charged extra; no objection to seven years for revision; the measure should be voluntary, and not compulsory; a receiver should be appointed, *Cramp* 9534–9559——Whether the averages of the proposed Tithe Bill are not too high; parishes paying in kind like the Tithe Bill, those under composition do not; amount per cent. for collection; the measure should be compulsory, *Hancock* 11435–11455——Principle of the Commutation of Tithes Bill being at the average of the last seven years is not fair, *Neave* 9427–9435; *Stares* 11789–11794 ——The Tithe Bill requires alterations for particular districts, *Parker* 12630.

See also *Agricultural Distress. Capital*, 3. *Clay Lands*, 4. *Clergy. Currency*, 2. *Farmers. Irish Corn*, 3. *Price of Corn*, 7, 9. *Small Tithes.*

Toll Dues on Manure. Farmers of Ayr suggest that the toll dues on manure should be reduced, *Brown* 12224.

Tooley Estate. On the sale of it, it made more than thirty years' purchase, *Ellis* 10958.

Towns. In the vicinity of towns, land is now cultivated with potatoes that used to be cultivated with wheat and beans, *Jacob* 56.

Trade. Trade is not prosperous; there has been no profit latterly, *Muntz* 16525, 16690.
See also *Continent. Currency.*

Tradesmen. Remunerative prices of agricultural produce necessary for the benefit of tradesmen, *Brickwell* 629; *Morton* 3920; *David* 4357–4359; *Howard* 5450–5453; *Umbers* 8601, 8602; *Stares* 11713–11715——Complaints by, that the payment of rents causes their bills not to be paid, *Houghton* 928, 931; *Umbers* 8604; *Stares* 11713–11715——No such complaint in Essex, *Kemp* 2125–2129——Great complaints of tradesmen, particularly in the town of Cambridge, *Thurnall* 2373–2380——In York, *Howard* 5450—5453——In Berwick, *Langhorn*, 7607——In provincial towns, *Ellis* 10822, 10823; *Freeland* 14897–14899——Not much complaint among tradesmen in market towns, *Parker* 12561–12562.
See also *Farming Tradesmen. Loans. Local Taxation. Rent*, 4. *Shopkeepers.*

Trimlestown, Lord. See *Con-acre System.*

Turnips. Value of turnip crops per acre, *Rolfe* 1535–1537, 1582, 1583——Good show of, in Surrey last year, but the crop destroyed by caterpillars, *Smallpiece* 2567——Bad crop this year at Bedfont, *Sherborn* 4058——Very few turnips grown on witness's farm thirty years ago, *Bickerton* 8753——Are not so much grown at Benenden, *Neave* 9463——Great quantity of turnips grown in Dumfries, *Church* 13550——They are found to answer very well in Aberdeen, Forfar and Kincardineshires, and of good feeding quality, *Robertson* 13606——Particulars as to growing and pulling turnips on clay lands, *Howden* 10071–10080——The finest turnips are grown upon clay land in Scotland, *Robertson* 13818——By means of furrow-draining witness has been able to grow turnips upon land that was formerly unfit for that purpose, *Howden* 10056; *Brodie* 10241, 10246, 10417.
When land is drained turnips are as near as possible a certain crop, *Church* 13427——Supposed quantity of Swedish turnips that might be grown on an acre of drained clay land, *Robertson* 13825——Great deficiency in the turnip crop in the south of England, Earl *Radnor* 16729——Loss of turnips has prevented the price of cattle being remunerating, and has caused sheep and stock of all descriptions to be fed on hay and corn, *Smallpiece* 2853, 2854; *Hancock* 11289–11291; *Stares* 11558–11563——Berwickshire farmers have gained by the scarcity of turnips on the southern farms, *Bell* 11929–11934——Period when the turnip system of husbandry introduced into Hampshire, *Stares* 11544–11545.
See also *Bone Manure. Cattle*, 2, 4. *Clay Lands*, 1. *Coke*, Mr. *Meat. Palmer Worm. Rent*, 3. *Sheep. Swedish Turnips. Wool*, 2.

Turnip Lands. There is no difficulty in letting a turnip farm; farmers with capital will not take the heavy clay lands, *Houghton* 1019–1021, 1024——Will, at 5*s.* a bushel for wheat, pay a nominal rent of 5*s.* an acre, *Bowyer* 3553, 3554——Cultivation of, has improved within fifteen years; more wheat grown thereon; the other crops counterbalance the loss on wheat, *Houghton* 975–982.

Turnip Seed. Quantity of turnip-seed sown per acre by witness, *Iles* 7421.

Turnpike Tolls. Amount of turnpike tolls, which are a great tax, though the roads have been considerably improved since their establishment, *Brodie* 10301–10309.

Twenty-one Day Bills. Practice of bankers issuing twenty-one day bills is greatly on the increase, *Burgess* 15936.

U.

Umbers, William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Farmer of 700 acres of arable land at Weston Hall, near Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, 8444–8451——Land in a deteriorated state compared with sixteen years ago, although money has been laid out in draining and improving, 8454, 8455——Cost of cultivating an acre of wheat on strong land, showing a loss with wheat at 8*s.* a bushel, 8459——Wheat being the most exhausting crop should not be cultivated unless it will pay its own expenses, 8461——Cost of cultivating an acre of beans, oats and clover, showing profit and loss, 8462–8464——Objection to the removal of the duty on clover-seed, from the extent of labour it employs, 8465–8467——Breadth of land under wheat has diminished within the last two years. and more particularly in the present year, 8468, 8469——Wheat cannot be grown under 8*s.* a bushel on either description of land to yield a fair return for the capital employed, 8470–8472——Price of other produce has not counterbalanced the loss sustained on wheat, 8473——Barley is not remunerating, 8474——Beans have not been an average crop, and the price has been low, 8475, 8476.
Price of mutton is remunerating, from the great scarcity of fat sheep at the present time, 8477–8479——Price of wool is remunerating, but there has been less shorn; more lambs killed last year than usual; flocks have never entirely recovered the rot; cut of wool has been shorter than usual, and there has been an extraordinary demand for wool, 8480——Witness has been prosperous from other resources than farming; his condition would not have been better in the last twenty years had he had that alone to depend on, 8487–8493——Comparative state of the farming interest as regards prices from 1815, 8494–8499——Rates not heavy, 2*s.* 6*d.* in the pound will cover all, 8500, 8501——

Umbers, William. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

Labourers' condition better during the war than previously, 8502–8510——The erection of a convent and the Birmingham railroad have taken away many of the labourers from the neighbourhood, 8511——Rate of wages, which cannot be maintained upon the price of wheat, 8512, 8513——Difference made in amount of money under a comparative range of prices of 5*s.* and 8*s.* a bushel for wheat, 8514——Calculation as to the degree in which a rise in the price of a bushel of wheat operates upon the consumer of bread per day, 8516, 8517.

Preference for 7*s.* a bushel and expenses in proportion, than to hold rent, tithe and rate-free with 5*s.* a bushel, 8518——There are plenty of applications when farms are at liberty, but the difficulty is in getting tenants with sufficient capital, 8519–8821——Contraction of the circulating medium causes more property to be thrown upon the market, which depresses prices, 8523-8525, 8573——Bonding of foreign corn one of the greatest difficulties the farmer has to complain of, he being compelled to pay the duty in the shape of taxation on his own corn before it goes into his rick-yard, 8526, 8527——Occupiers of known property beyond their farms have no difficulty in getting credit, but there are many who have nothing beyond, 8528–8530, 8582–8587——Joint stock banks have given greater facilities of accommodation than could be obtained before, 8530, 8531——Proposition for a fixed duty of 30*s.* a quarter to be paid on import, which would prevent bonding in this country, would prevent the markets here being glutted, and leave a fair remuneration to the foreign grower, 8527, 8532–8535, 8574——Rise in the price of wheat would increase wages in as great a proportion as it would increase the cost of consumption, 8536, 8537.

Where labourers are fully employed, they are better off than formerly, though in many parts their wages are paid out of their employer's capital, 8538–8540——Greater stock of corn in the hands of farmers within fifteen miles round Leamington than ever there was, or than there is in the same distance round any other part of the kingdom, 8541, 8542——If present prices of wool and mutton were to continue, which cannot be expected, wheat could be grown at less than 64*s.*, 8554——In the next few years there will be a diminished growth of wheat, which will raise prices; and if there should be an unproductive season, it will cause a necessity for large imports, 8555——Produce of clover per acre and price as consumed on the land; without great care, it has a pernicious effect on the cattle, 8556–8561——Draining increases produce, and will repay if prices rise; witness's landlord allows a kiln for tiles on the farm, and a sum to drain the land with, 8562–8566.

Farmers are much worse now than in 1833, 8567——Scarcity of fat sheep this year partly from the failure of the turnip crop and partly from their being unsaleable ast year, 8568–8572——Advantage to the farmer to have the privilege of malting his own barley duty-free, 8575–8578——Withdrawal of one-pound notes has done harm to the agricultural interest; wish for their re-issue, 8588, 8589——Great change of tenantry of late years, which was very unusual formerly, 8590–8598——Farmers' opinion pretty general, now that change in the currency has produced low prices, 8599, 8600——Great wish of tradesmen now for a rise in the price of agricultural produce, many having found out the mistake of a contrary state of things, 8601, 8602——Rents are better paid than any thing else; men will borrow of every friend they can to pay their rent, 8603——Tradesmen left unpaid for that purpose, 8604.

Corn laws have caused low prices by the imports in 1828–1832, 8617–8619——Loss by the rot in 1829 to 1831, 8620-8625——Objection to corn-rents, from the difficulty of getting correct returns for the averages, 8628——Rents have been much abated since 1829, and are gradually descending, 8630, 8631——Taking the duty off clover-seed would not be an advantage to the farming interest, from the reduction of labour, 8633–8636——Comparative rent in 1794–1816 and at present on witness's farm, 8637–8647——Newspapers and other publications have caused greater attention to be paid to the currency than formerly, 8648–8655——No reasonable abatement of rent can be made to allow of cultivation of wheat at 6*s.* a bushel, 8656-8658.

Upland Farms. Wet seasons better for upland farms, *Thurnall* 2282–2288——How far upland farmers affected by the rot, *Smallpiece* 3113–3121——Distress on upland farms decreased from the high price of sheep, *Howard* 5328——Extensive rot on the clay lands caused the upland farmers to gain, *Atkinson* 5945–5947——Any advantage gained by them by the rot, was at the expense of the lowland farmer, *Bickerton* 8832–8834——Nature of crops on the uplands during the last three years, and how affected by the weather, *Bickerton* 8844–8847.

See also *Produce of Corn. Rot,* 2. *Wool,* 2.

V.

Valuations of Counties. Expense that would be thrown upon districts by taking new valuations, is considered an objection to the equalization; if an uniform principle were adopted for poor and county rates, such valuation would apply to the land tax, *Wood* and *Garnett* 9079.

Valuation of Tithes. See *Agricultural Distress,* 6.

Value of Land. Rate per acre land is worth for sale in Essex, *Kemp* 1974——In the neighbourhood of London, as compared with more distant districts, *Sherborn* 4092–4112——Reduction of price of land, *David* 4277–4278——Value of the land on witness's farm increased from 15*s.* to 2*l.* per acre, *Smith* 15072——Principle on which lands valued for letting on different counties, *Shawe* 14301–14304.

Vegetables. See *Potatoes*, 1.

Vetches. Not considered advantageous to grow vetches in Essex, *Babbs* 3273.

Victualling Ships. See *Bonded Corn*, 3. *Ships.*

WAGES:

1. *Rate of Wages, and whether increase or reduction therein.*
2. *Comparison between Wages and the price of Provisions.*
3. *Effect of altering prices on Wages.*
4. *Practice of paying Wages in money or in kind.*

1. *Rate of Wages, and whether increase or reduction therein.*

Amount paid by witness in Berwick in one day for wages; manner in which paid, *Langhorn* 7655, 7675——In Haddington are nearly the same as those of last year, *Hope* 9736——Money wages have been much the same for many years, *Brown* 12260–12263——Fair wages given, *Jacob* 291–300——In Essex, *Parker* 12417.

Rate of, in England: At Bedfont, *Sherborn* 4045——In Bucks, *Rolfe* 1443; *Morton* 3673, 3825–3829; *Cox* 14213–14215——In Essex, *Babbs* 3228, 3229; *Parker* 12420 In Huntingdonshire, *Bowyer* 3604, 3608–3610, 3623——In Kent, *Neave* 9477——On the wolds of Lincoln, *Atkinson* 5854, 5930——In Lincolnshire, *Iles* 7427, 7428——In Middlesex, *Sherborn* 4045; *Tillyer* 4174, 4222–4243——In Northumberland, *Langhorn* 7560——In Nottingham, *Stevenson* 13103–13107, 13113–13115——In Sussex, *Ellman* 4694–4700; *Goodman* 11014, 11015——In the Isle of Thanet, *Cramp* 9503, 9504——In Warwickshire, *Umbers* 8504–8506——In Scotland: in Ayrshire, *Brown* 12249–12251——In Dumfries, *Church* 13581–13584——In Forfar, *Robertson* 13640——In Haddington, *Hope* 9649–9655; *Brodie* 10369——In Kincardineshire, *Robertson* 13640——In Perthshire, *Oliphant* 11263–11265——In Ireland, *Sanders* 6013; *Blacker* 15414–15420——In Kildare, King's County and Cork, *Shawe* 14478, 14479——In Leinster, Meath and Dublin, *Brassington* 14652–14655.

Increase in caused by demand for labour, owing to increased cultivation, *Brown* 12260–12263; *Parker* 12421; *Blacker* 15430, 15431——Prosperity of manufactures, *Blacker* 15430, 15431; *Burgess* 16194——Railroads and public works, *Houghton* 848–856——Effect of the Poor Law Amendment Act, *Houghton* 848–856——The rates of wages keeps up to prevent applications to overseers, *Howard* 5480–5484——Are generally higher on the best lands, *Smallpiece* 2883–2888.

Reduction of wages in Bucks, *Brickwell* 354——In Dorsetshire, *Jacob* 236——In Essex, *Babbs* 3228, 3229, 3280; *Page* 2671–2673——In Gloucestershire, *Jacob* 236——In the north of England, *Jacob* 236——In Nottingham, *Stevenson* 13103–13107, 13113–13115——In Somersetshire, *Jacob* 236——In Suffolk, *Cooper* 5629–5634——In the East Riding of York, *Howard* 5480——Whether supposed reduction of wages a cause of fires a few years ago, and how far they were kept up by fear of insubordination, *Jacob* 264–267——Difficult to reduce them below a certain amount, *Cortis* 1837——They have not been reduced in Surrey so much as the price of wheat, *Smallpiece* 2856——They have not been reduced, except as far as regards being reduced from what they rose to during the riots, *Stares* 11512–11513.

2. *Comparison between Wages and the price of Provisions.*

Should be regulated by the price of provisions, *Morton* 3936–3938——Comparative wages 1813–1822, and comparison with the prices of the necessaries of life in Bucks, *Brickwell* 350——Reduction of wages has been greater than the reduction in the price of necessaries, *Page* 2723–2733——Wages of labour have not fallen with other commodities, *Langhorn* 9021——They are not too much for the labourer to receive, *Cortis* 1914——They are sufficient to find labourers in the necessaries of life, *Bennett* 8198, 8199——Reduction of a cause for the greater use of potatoes, *Jacob* 116, 117——Wages have been paid in reference to the sum on which a man can live and not in reference to the value of labour, *Boniface* 13169–13171; *Cox* 14214–14215——Allowing labourers beer would to a certain extent reduce their wages, *Sherborn* 4084——In Gloucester, they have been increased, provisions being dearer, *Crowther* 12792–12793.

3. *Effect of altering prices on Wages.*

Present prices of corn do not yield a sufficient profit to allow the payment of the present rate of wages, *Houghton* 848–856; *Cortis* 1825–1830, 1914; *Thurnall* 2574; *Morton* 3936–3938; *Sherborn* 4132, 4133; *Howard* 5480–5484; *Calthrop* 7894; *Umbers* 8512–8513, 8538; *Bickerton* 8881–8883; *Parker* 12421——Of 12*s.* a week, could not be paid with wheat under 50*s.* per quarter, unless with a fair average for other produce, *Atkinson* 5929——Rate of wages that should be paid if prices of all produce remunerative, *Thurnall* 2574——Effect of price of corn, and demand for labour on wages, *Robertson* 13717–13721——If prices raised wages would be increased, *Hancock* 11388–11390.

WAGES:—3. *Effect of altering Price on Wages*—continued.

11390——The present unnatural height of wages attributable to the fires and insubordination of labourers, which state of things cannot remain, *Burgess* 16189–16195——An addition of six per cent. to prices would not enhance wages, *Burgess* 16196–16198——They would not be reduced if 10 *s.* was taken off the malt duty, *Neave* 9420, 9421——Effect of depreciating the currency on labourers' wages, *Muntz* 16582–16585.

4. *Practice of paying Wages in money or in kind.*

Payment in money as it gives the advantage of piece-work; some are paid in kind, *Brodie*, 10376–10981——Are generally paid in money, *Langhorn* 7560–7563; *Howden* 9980, 9981, 10183; *Brodie* 10376–10381; *Walker* 10631–10634; *Brown* 12249–12251——Some are paid in kind, *Langhorn* 7560–7563; *Brodie* 10376–10381——Ploughmen, *Howden* 10183——Horsemen, *Howden* 9980, 9981——Regular farm servants, *Hope* 9649–9655——Are paid in corn at a low market in Roxburghshire, *M'Dougal* 14540–14542——Alterations that have been made in wages; price per bushel at which calculated, *Howden* 10231–10234——Different modes of paying wages in Forfar and Kincardine, *Robertson* 13640——How far any system could be adopted of paying wages according to the price of corn, upon a system of corn rents, *Morton* 3972–3974.

See also *Agricultural Distress*, 5. *Agricultural Labourers*, 3. 4. *Capital*, 3. *Corn Laws*, 1. *Currency*, 2. *Fires*. *Gold Standard*. *Intimidation*. *Irish Corn*, 1. *Irish Labourers*. *Iron Works*. *Labouring Classes*. *Manufacturing Districts*. *Marriages*. *Political Unions*. *Poor Law Amendment Act*. *Price of Corn*, 7. *Rent*, 4. *Riots*. *Scotch Produce*.

Walker, David. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Land-surveyor in Aberdeen, and farming 220 acres in Kincardine, 10503–10506——Tenantry in Aberdeen have improved within the last three years, particularly those with money-rents, 10509, 10510——Description of crops grown on light land, 10511, 10512——Rotation of crops, 10516–10520——Quantity of bone dust and fold-yard manure used per acre, 10521–10525——Quantity of lime used per acre, and cost, 10526–10531——Improvements that have been going on for the last four or five years have caused the country to be in a higher state of cultivation, 10532–10534——Advantages of furrow-draining; cost per acre, 10534–10547——But for draining the landlords must have reduced their rents on clay lands, 10548–10551——Dry seasons improve the quality of barley, but not the quantity, upon light land, 10555–10560——Not many sheep kept in that district, 10561–10564——State of farmers, 10566–10570——Capital has been expended in improving farms, 10571–10575.

Effect of demand and supply or price in different years since 1820, 10576–10588——Advantage of the one-pound notes to Scotland, 10592–10594——Mode upon which corn-rents are estimated, 10595–10600——Mode of striking the fiars in Aberdeenshire, 10601–10606——Mode of ploughing; number of horses used, 10607–10615——Mode of sub-soil ploughing; expense per acre which is borne by the tenant, 10616–10628——Condition of labourers is good; they are all employed, 10629, 10630——Wages generally paid in money; labourers are engaged mostly by the half-year, 10631–10634——Statement of expense of cultivation shown by the rotation followed on a farm consisting of 220 acres of arable land, situated twelve miles from a sea-port town, and worked upon the five-course system, and examination thereon, 10636–10643——Cultivation of bere in Aberdeenshire and markets to which sent, 10644–10647.

Advantage of steam navigation in causing the export of fat cattle to London, 10651–10653, 10671, 10672——Increased cultivation of heath land, expense per acre, and assistance given by the landlord, 10654–10658——Agricultural interest will get into a good and wholesome state without the intervention of Parliament, if it is not in that state already, 10664–10666——Rental value per acre of clay land well drained, 10668–10670——Cost of sending cattle to London by steam, 10673——Lean cattle formerly sent have been superseded by sending fat cattle, 10672–10679——Amount of advantage taking off the duty on clover-seed would be to the Scotch farmer, though it would be detrimental to the English; Dutch seed preferred, 10680–10685——Local charges are not heavy, and are borne between landlord and tenant, 10687–10694——Rents have been but rarely reduced, improvements in agriculture having prevented the necessity for reduction, 10695.

WAR:

1. *Prosperity during the War, and whether advantageous or otherwise.*
2. *Effect of the rise in prices during the War, and fall since.*
3. *State of the currency during the War, and its effect on prices.*

1. *Prosperity during the War, and whether advantageous or otherwise.*

Causes to which general prosperity, during the late war, to be attributed, *Burgess* 5965–15970——During the war farmers could realize property, *Rolfe* 1623–1627——No difficulty in finding employment during the war, and rate of wages then, *Ellman* 4701–4705——Farmers and labourers were both better off during the war, *Brassington* 14723–14725——The high prices during the war were one of the worst things that could have happened to the farmer, *Hancock* 11346–11349——There was more money made during the war, but there are fewer adventurers now, and things are in a more healthy state, *Robertson* 13684–13688.

WAR:—continued.

2. *Effect of the rise of prices during the War, and fall since.*

Prices occasioned by, were good for one part of the community, and bad for another, *Jacob* 254——Prices should be higher in war than in peace, *Houghton* 899——The loss of the monopoly enjoyed during the war by Great Britain, and the restoration of manufacturing industry in other countries by the peace, led to a considerable depression of prices, *Sanders* 6261–6263——Effect of the closing foreign markets during the war, and opening them after the peace, in causing a rise or fall in the price of manufactured goods, Lord *Ashburton* 17043–17049——It depends upon the description of war in which England is engaged whether it raises prices, *Parker* 12586–15588——Causes which led to the state of prices during the war, Lord *Ashburton* 17037–17039——Increased taxation, and increased value of commercial, manufacturing and agricultural property, 1797–1815, ascribed partly to currency, and to the peculiar manner in which produce was compelled to be purchased, causing monopoly in contracts, *Parker* 12592–12594——War does not tend to raise prices except as regards those articles used extensively by Government, *Muntz* 16361–16365——Extent to which war produces a rise in prices, Lord *Ashburton* 17019–17025.

3. *State of the currency during the War, and its effect on prices.*

Increases taxation, and prevents so large a consumption of produce as in peace, *Muntz* 16369–16371——Whether an expensive war could be carried on under the present standard, Earl *Radnor* 16964–16966——Extent to which the bank issues caused a rise in prices during the war, Lord *Ashburton* 17027, 17028——Effect of prices on consumption; derangement caused by the immense expenditure during the war causes it to be very difficult to draw conclusions from that period, Lord *Ashburton* 17032–17036——Money expended during the war, Lord *Ashburton* 17037.

See also *Agricultural Labourers*, 3. *Bank of England Notes. Bank Restriction Act. Capital*, 2. *Down Land. Farmers. Leases. Population. Price of Corn*, 1, 6, 10. *Rent*, 1, 3. *Silver Standard*, 1. *Tillage.*

War Rents. See *Agricultural Distress*, 5. *Agricultural Prosperity. Fixed Duty*, 7. *Landlords.*

Waste Lands. The cultivation of waste lands have been proceeding very rapidly in Aberdeen, *Walker* 10659——Names of landed proprietors who have turned their attention to reclaiming waste lands, *Clarke* 13888–13891——If capital and machinery applied to those lands, they would yield a profitable return, *Clarke* 13893, 13894——The reclaiming lands by Lord Clonbrook has given an increased demand for labour in the cultivation of those lands, although his system has been to increase the size of his farms, *Clarke* 13923–13927——In the district from Alloa to Aberdeen much land has been reclaimed and improved in the last twenty years, and the general culture greatly improved, *Menzies* 14043, 14044——Reclamation of waste lands offers a wide field for the employment of capital and the working classes, *Smith* 15114–15117——There are sufficient improvable lands in the United Kingdom to give employment to the surplus population without emigration, *Smith* 15224.

See also *Bog Land. Capital*, 5. *Cultivation, II.* 3. *Steam.*

Water Carriage. See *Price of Corn*, 4.

Wealth. See *Currency.*

Weavers. Tendency of throwing the linen weavers of Ireland out of employment to cause a greater quantity of grass land there to be cultivated, *Brickwell* 636——When the stocking trade slack, the weavers compel the overseers of agricultural parishes to relieve them, *Stevenson* 13109–13112.

Weight of Wheat. Increase in Huntingdonshire in the last two years over 1833, *Bowyer* 3434, 3435——Average weight of last year's crop heavy compared with 1833 and 1834, *Morton* 3949–3952——Excess thereof during the last three years over the preceding, in consequence of fine harvests, *Sherborn* 4072——Great increased production of human food from increased weight of wheat, and consequently greater yield of flour, *Sherborn* 4072–4076——Wheat has been heavier from two to three pounds a bushel, *Sanders* 6026——Increased weight of wheat and consequent increase of flour, *Howden* 10007–10009.

See also *Barley, II. Flour.*

Weights and Measures. Clause in the Weight and Measure Act of 1824 for rectifying contracts, Lord *Ashburton* 17667–17669.

West Foile Union. Want of employment very great in the parishes belonging to, *Ellman* 4517–4526.

West India Colonies. Would not be injured by exportation of British corn spirits, *Houghton* 805, 806, 930.

See also *Bonded Corn*, 3, 5. *Casks.*

West India Compensation Fund. Payment of, has caused a greater plenty of money in the market, *Sanders* 6218——Which is one cause of the present speculation in railroads, &c., Lord *Ashburton* 17040, 17041.

West of England. See *Intimidation.*

Wet Lands. Change of tenantry in Surrey has been principally on these soils, but not so much in the last as in the previous three years; present tenants are too poor to stop if the seasons are bad, *Smallpiece* 3122–3124——Although they are improved, a succession of bad seasons would cause them to fall back, *Babbs* 3363, 3364.

Wheat. An average crop last year at Denham, *Morton* 3653——Wheat crops have been very abundant the last three seasons, *Bennett* 8268——Being the most exhausting crop, should not be cultivated unless it will pay its own expenses, *Umbers* 8461——It is very little cultivated in Aberdeen, *Walker* 10552——Present price of wheat in Taunton market, *Hancock* 11413–11415——Red wheat now grown on land in Scotland, if well prepared, where oats were grown with difficulty twenty years ago, *Menzies* 14106–14108——How often wheat sown in Kildare, and acreable produce, *Shaw* 14269–14272——Considerable districts of land producing wheat which did not formerly, *Smith* 15084–15086.——See also *Corn.*

Wheat Malt. A practice of distilling and brewing from wheat malt has arisen lately; there is a considerable greater produce from a quarter of wheat malted, than from a quarter of barley, *Dunlop* 9195–9198.

Whisky. That made from malt only is preferred from its quality and not from its strength, *Dunlop* 9187–9189.

Wholesale Prices. Effect of a depreciation in the currency on wholesale prices, *Muntz* 16677.

Window Tax. Is one of the taxes, included in the assessed taxes, which presses on the farmer, *Rolfe* 1688, 1689.

Wire Fencing. Advantage of wire fencing used by witness for enclosing land, and expense thereof, *Oliphant* 11124–11127.

Woburn. See *Railroads.*

Wold Lands. Rents on, may be called rather an equalization than an increase, the rents on clay lands having been reduced, *Houghton* 1334–1336——Farmers on the wold lands do not suffer so much as those in other parts of England, *Atkinson* 5847——The wolds is a barley country, *Howard* 5543, 5544——Improvements of the wolds and fens in Lincolnshire and Yorkshire, which have caused the increased growth of wheat thereon, have been going on for the last twenty-five years, *Howard* 5509, 5510; *Atkinson* 5822–5825; *Iles* 7322–7325; *Calthrop* 7988–7990——Increase of wheat on the wolds has not occasioned the present low prices, *Calthrop* 7999, 8000——Wheat grown on the wolds is principally sent to Wakefield and Leeds markets, *Iles* 7524–7529.

See *Barley, II. III.* 1. *Bone Manure. Clover Seed. Farmers,* 3. *Harvests,* 2. *Limestone Lands.*

Wood, John, and *William Garnett.* (Analysis of their evidence.)—Mr. Wood, chairman of the board of taxes, 9045——Mr. Garnett, registrar of the land tax, 9046——Manner in which land tax imposed by Act 4 William and Mary, c. 1, and at what rate, 9047——Period for which assessment made and how long continued, 9048——Manner in which quotas were fixed in 1798 by Act 38 Geo. III., c. 5, 9049——The Act extends to Scotland, but not to Ireland, 9050——Proportions of the sum directed to be raised by the Act of 1798, that were charged in England and Wales and Scotland respectively, 9051——Excess the actual assessments were over the amount fixed by the Act, and which excess was by Act 6 Geo. IV., c. 32, made applicable in aid of subsequent years, 9052——Amount assessed on lands, tenements, &c., 9053——Reduction on pensions, offices and personal estates, and cause of reduction, 9053, 9054——Amount of land tax redeemed, 9055——Statement showing the amount assessed and expenses of collection, 9056——Rate of allowance paid to collectors, receiving officers of counties and clerks to commissioners, 9057——Poundage to commissioners' clerks is continued on redeemed portion, because their labour is not diminished by the redemption, 9058.

Assessments are made annually, but generally copied from the preceding year; principle on which made, 9059–9061——Circumstances under which part of the land tax redeemed continues in charge, 9062, 9063——Statement showing some of the most striking inequalities in the proportions of land tax raised by different places, 9064——Amount of land tax for the whole of Scotland; return for the city of Edinburgh 1834–1835; intention of assimilating the practices of England and Scotland with regard to the collection, 9064——Supposed annual value of property liable to the land tax, 9066——Amount of revenue that would be produced by an equalized rate of 1 s. in the pound on unredeemed property, 9067–9069——In the event of an equalized rate being determined on, the principle of a fixed and permanent rate on the annual value would be preferable to continuing that of fixed quotas, 9070——Objections anticipated to the equalization of the tax, 9071.

Wood, John, and *William Garnett.* (Analysis of their Evidence)—*continued.*

Manner in which the objection to the equalization, as imposing a house-tax, could be obviated, 9072——In the event of equalization, the power of redemption should be continued; alteration that should be made in the terms of redemption, 9073, 9074——Produce of the house tax in 1833; annual value on which assessed; rates of duty, 9075–9077——Facility would be given to the equalization if property rated at its actual value, 9079——Expense that would be thrown upon districts, by taking new valuations, is considered an objection to the equalization; if an uniform principle were adopted for poor and county rates, such valuation would apply to the land tax, 9079——Whether the public would avail themselves of the redemption, if more advantageous terms were offered, 9079.

Statement of the gross receipt of land tax in Great Britain, from 1797–1828, showing the progress made in the redemption thereof, 9080——Statement of the amount of land tax redeemed in each year since 1827, and the average rate at which redeemed, 9079——Land tax now only redeemed on small portions affecting particular estates, 9081——Statement by the late Mr. Sayer, registrar of land tax, in March 1834, proposing a new land tax of 4*s.*, 3*s.*, or 2*s.* in the pound, in consequence of a proposition of Mr. Took's to Lord Althorp for a select committee to inquire into the state of the land tax, 9081——Plan for a new land tax is practicable, but doubts as to its expediency, 9082——Difference in the amount of funds now, and at the time power of redemption was given, 9083, 9084——Total annual loss to the public of allowing a redemption at twenty-five years' purchase, 9085——Modes of proceeding to recover land tax against landlord and tenant, 9087–9096.

Land tax Office does not interfere with the manner in which the quotas are levied, so that the amount of the quota is paid into the Exchequer, 9097, 9098——Amount that would have to be paid by a person redeeming 4*l.* per annum land tax, and amount that he would have paid when the land tax was made perpetual, 9101–9108——Preamble and second clause of the Act of William and Mary, 9111, 9112——Intention of the Act that personal property should be equally subject with land; conjecture that difficulties arose, and that the amount was levied on the land only; whether it did not also pay the default on personal property, 9112–9115——Duke of Marlborough's pension was charged with the 4*s.* in the pound; period when it is supposed to have been first so charged, 9118–9121——Unless a special exemption in the grant of a pension was introduced, it has been liable to the 4*s.* in the pound under the Land Tax Act, 9124, 9125.

Marylebone and Liverpool are only lightly assessed; they have grown into importance of late years, 9127, 9128——Opinion upon the construction of certain clauses of the Act 38 Geo. III., relative to personal property, 9129, 9130——Opinion with regard to the payment of land tax on a legacy of 10,000*l.* in the county of Rutland, 9131——The working of the Act of 1797 depends on the local commissioners, who it is supposed did not choose to alter the assessments already made, which may account for personal property being so slightly charged, 9132——The 20*s.* refers to personal property, and the 4*s.* to real estate, 9134, 9135——Rate of land tax in Essex and Devon, 9136——Further evidence relative to the county of Essex, and how far the land has borne the tax, although personal property liable, 9137–9140——Assessment on Middlesex, and particularly as regards personal property, 9141, 9142——Assessment on the city of London, particularly as regards stock in trade, offices and personal estate, 9143.

Wool:

1. *Generally.*
2. *Prices of Wool, and causes of the increase.*

1. *Generally.*

Clip of wool different on different sheep, *Crowther* 12882–12890——Quantity of wool obtained from each sheep depends on the keep, *Church* 13497——Crossing the breed of sheep with the Leicester has improved the wool, *Shawe* 14335–14339——The greatest part of the wool produced in Lincolnshire is sold in the Yorkshire markets, *Iles* 7509–7510——It is not protected by high import duties, *Fison* 12681——Millions of acres of land on the continent capable of supplying wool, *Fison* 12705–12709.

2. *Price of Wool, and causes of the increase.*

Estimated price of wool on letting farms, *Bennett* 8259–8262——Price of wool latterly: In Buckinghamshire, *Brickwell* 413–415; *Morton* 3723——In 1833 and 1836, *Morton* 3740——In Hampshire, *Stares* 11554——In Huntingdonshire in 1828 and 1831, *Bowyer* 3545——In Lincolnshire, *Iles* 7491–7494——In Ireland, *Shawe* 14335–14339——In Ayrshire, 1828 to 1835, *Brown* 12327–12336——Sale price of South Down wool in Surrey, 1812–1835, *Smallpiece* 3200——Is much about the same now as last year, *Bickerton* 8701——Is higher than that of other agricultural produce, *Kemp* 2154——Is high, or is not complained of now, *Houghton* 1013; *Smallpiece* 2869; *Morton* 3690; *Tillyer* 4199; *Church* 13455; *Burgess* 16098——Is advancing, *Morton* 3690——Price of wool which is remunerating, *Thurnall* 2548–2552; *Cooper* 5657–5661; *Umbers* 8480——High price of wool attributed to the rot in sheep, *Houghton* 1040–1053; *Cortis* 1889; *Thurnall* 2303–2307; *Smallpiece* 2889–2903; *Morton* 3852–3864; *David* 4292, 4295–4297, 4433–4434; *Howard* 5349–5362; *Cooper* 5734–5743; *Atkinson* 5948–5950;

Sanders

Wool:—2. *Prices of Wool, and causes of the increase*—continued.

Sanders 6876–6880; *Iles* 7371–7382; *Langhorn* 7584–7588; *Bennett* 8246–8258; *Brown* 12327–12336; *Parker* 12544–12560; *Fison* 12725–12728; *Church* 13456; *Robertson* 13681–13683; *Spooner* 15641, 15642——To the increased demand for manufactures, *Houghton* 1040–1053; *Morton* 3852–3864; *Ellman* 4638–4682; *Cooper* 5745, 5750–5753; *Umbers* 8480; *Parker* 12544–12560; *Fison* 12725–12728; *Oliphant* 11176–11188; *Spooner* 15641–15646——To the failure of the turnip crop, *Brown* 12337–12339; *Parker* 12544–12560——Goodness of trade, *Crowther* 12843–12855——*Oliphant* 11176–11188——Demand from the continent, *Houghton* 1040–1053; *Bennett* 8363–8366——How far borne out by increased exports, *Spooner* 15641–15646——Increased consumption, *Bennett* 8246–8258——Increased population, *Oliphant* 11176–11188——Conversion of grass lands into arable, *Atkinson* 5948–5950——To scarcity, *David* 4300; *Howard* 5399——There has been less shorn, *Umbers* 8480——Is not caused by any deficiency in the supply, *Ellman* 4759, 4760——Cut of wool has been shorter than usual, *Umbers* 8480——Rise in the price of wool did not follow the rot so quickly as expected, *Crowther* 12861–12875——If prices had not risen, the upland farmers would have suffered, but not to the extent that the lowland farmers have suffered, by the rot, *Iles* 7383——Weight of wool per fleece; increased demand from England; it having borne a better price has helped the grazing farmers through, *Shawe* 14409–14413——Average prices of wool, *App. III. p.* 543.

See also *Agricultural Produce. Fixed Duty*, 3. *France. Lambs. Light Lands. Limestone Lands. Manufacturing Interest. Price of Corn.*

Wool and Tallow. Fluctuation in the price of wool and tallow when subject to a fixed duty, *Bell* 12036, 12037.

Wooler Parish. Population of the parish of Wooler; amount of parochial taxes in that parish, *Langhorn*, 7558.

Workhouses. Workhouses contemplated under the Poor Law Act, *Cox* 14227, 14228——Workhouses under Mr. Gilbert's Act were badly managed; men with wives were generally not received, but lived in cottages, *Cox* 14231–14235.

Works, Public. See *Poor Law Amendment Act. Wages*, 1.

Y.

Yarborough, Lord. He has invariably given draining tiles to his tenants, and they put them in at their own expense, *Atkinson* 5852——Increase of rent on Lord Yarborough's estates, *Atkinson* 5941–5944.

Yeomen. Impoverished condition of yeomen farming 40 or 50 acres, *Thurnall* 2413–2424.

See also *Small Proprietors.*

Yeovil. Is the only market in England for flax, *Hancock* 11483.